



# THE INDEPENDENT

N° 3,397

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 1997

WEATHER: Mostly fine

(1845p) 40p

IN THE TABLOID

**CAROL SHIELDS**  
**THREE DAYS THAT**  
**CHANGED MY LIFE**

IN THE TABLOID

**THE BATTLE**  
**OF THE**  
**SHRINKS**

SPORT PAGE 24

**Independent**  
**Fantasy Football**  
**THE FIRST MONTH'S RESULTS**

## Blair stirs up Home Rule vote

Stephen Goodwin

Tony Blair yesterday tried to work his personal magic on a jittery campaign for Scottish home rule, telling voters they had "nothing to be frightened of, except fear itself".

The Prime Minister's problem, however, is that many Scots are not so much afraid of devolution as apathetic towards it. Behind Mr Blair's election-style campaigning lies unease in the Labour high command and among their home-rule allies that the turnout could be low and the outcome a messy, unconvincing mandate for a parliament in Edinburgh.

In a series of speeches and walkabouts in the central belt, the Prime Minister urged Scots to have confidence in their ability to govern themselves and to reject scares over giving the new Parliament tax-raising powers.

"The idea that this is a power with which the Scottish people can't be trusted, I just find that wrong, absurd even," Mr Blair said during an hour-long question and answer session at Trinity Academy, an Edinburgh comprehensive school.

He presented the Parliament as the mature next step to the "bureaucratized devolution" to the Scottish Office of responsibility for services including health, education, local government and the environment.

However, of 17 questions put to Mr Blair at the Academy by an invited audience of predominantly middle-class adults and senior pupils – the kind of intelligent audience most likely to be concerned about issues of democracy – only four were about home rule. Student fees, education



generally, and housing were more pressing concerns.

The disturbing irony for the ministers, who have descended in force on Scotland this week, is that they are calling for a double "Yes" vote at a time when the clamour for home rule is at its lowest for 18 years.

Mr Blair was applauded on the streets yesterday with a warmth that would never have been extended to John Major or Baroness Thatcher, hated by Scots for using them as poll tax guinea pigs. Privately, senior Labour figures in Scotland wonder why, having won real power at last, they should devolve it to what would most likely be a Parliament led by coalition.

Labour's fear of a low turnout became evident last week, when officials emphasised that "real" electorate for Thursday's vote was about 3.5m rather than the 3.97m on the official register. Some 400,000 people are assumed to have moved or died since the list was drawn up last October.

Jitters about the outcome also appeared to be behind a suggestion by Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, that his Orkney and Shetland constituents should be given a degree of autonomy from a Scottish Parliament. The islands emphatically rejected devolution in the 1979 referendum and Mr Wallace's proposal was seized on by "No" campaigners as an admission that they will do so again.

With William Hague, the Tory leader, due to be the anti-home rule drum today, the hitherto barely evident "Think Twice" campaign claims to be gaining ground. Opinion polls indicate a comfortable majority in favour of a Scottish Parliament, but Brian Monteith, the Think Twice organiser, believes Scots will deny it any tax varying powers. An ICM poll on Sunday showed that just 45 per cent of voters support the power to raise taxes by up to 3p in the pound, while 38 per cent were against – the lowest margin yet.

Lord Fraser, Director of Think Twice and the former Lord Advocate, said Mr Blair's promises of no tax rises were "empty rhetoric" that could not be delivered. "What Mr Blair can deliver is the highway to independence as an Edinburgh Parliament becomes the focal point for all the dissent and rancour that a mid-term Labour government faces."

Tom Dalyell, Labour's lone voice against home rule – or at least the only one raised in public, said: "As Mr Blair found out today, people's grievances are about money for things like schools and shortening hospital waiting lists, not about how we are governed."



Earl Spencer examines floral tributes to his sister Diana, Princess of Wales. They have been spread by her grave on the island in Althorp Park, where he invited the Press Association photographer David Jones to take pictures

Spencer thanks public for their sympathy

Louise Jury

Earl Spencer yesterday invited a lone Press Association photographer to record the sea of flowers that has overwhelmed the tiny island where his sister is buried, and then issued a statement thanking the thousands of people who have sent their sympathies. Mountains of blooms left by mourners at the gates of Althorp House, Northamptonshire, had been taken by boat to bedeck the final resting place of Diana, Princess of Wales.

"The flowers, the letters, the telegrams – all in their tens of thousands – have been a source of comfort and pride to us, and have genuinely helped us to mourn her death," Lord Spencer said. "The knowledge that Diana's life gave so many people so much can now be balanced by the hope that, in death her legacy will be immortal."

A family aide added the flowers would be left on the island. "It's ashes to ashes. They will stay here and help more flowers to grow one day around the grave."

As trailerloads of tributes were rowed across the lake to the unmarked grave, it emerged that the Royal family offered to restore the title Her Royal Highness within hours of the scathing funeral address by her brother, Lord Spencer. The Spencer family dismissed the gesture because it was not what the Princess would have wanted.

The decision by Buckingham Palace to release details followed calls by some newspapers for the HRH style to be given back. A Palace spokesman said it had consulted the Spencer family on Saturday afternoon. "Their very firm view was that the Princess herself would not have wished for any change to the style and title by which she was known at the time of her death. The Spencer family itself also did not wish for it to be changed."

Diana had "voluntarily relinquished" the title when the divorce was made absolute in August 1996, the spokesman said. The Queen subsequently issued new rules on royal titles which meant that, in future, divorced wives of male descendants of the sovereign would not be entitled to use the Royal Highness style. It is understood that Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, who is married to Lord Spencer's sister Jane, made the approach on the Royal Train to the Althorp burial.

## Ministers may force all home owners to insure mortgages

Nic Cicutti

The Government is examining proposals to reduce even further benefits to cover mortgage interest payments of home owners who fall ill or become unemployed.

The plans, part of the review of public expenditure, potentially extends the no-benefit period from nine months for new borrowers to 18 months, and might be linked to a compulsory insurance scheme for all new borrowers. The insurance cover would cost about £7 a month for a typical £50,000 loan and would replace the benefits currently paid.

In 1996, the total spent on mortgage interest as part of income support payments was about £760m. While this amount is expected to fall in the

longer term as more people are excluded from benefits in the first nine months because they took home loans after October 1995, the cost could soar again in the event of a renewed rise in unemployment.

Compulsory home loan insurance, though not linked to a cut in mortgage interest payments, forms part of series of proposals put forward by a report by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) yesterday.

A spokesman from the Department of Social Security, said yesterday that although ministers had not yet seen the report, a number of options were now being considered by the public spending review, including this one.

The CML report argues that, taken with a series of other reforms of the welfare system

affecting homeowners, compulsory cover would help to reduce the number of home repossessions, which currently stand at about 30,000 a year.

The state's financial burden, incurred when it has to rehouse evicted homeowners and pay their rents, might be further eased if it were prepared to offer support for low income homeowners at a cost of £300 a year, the CML study estimates.

Michael Coogan, director general at the CML, said: "Read yesterday that although ministers had not yet seen the report, a number of options were now being considered by the public spending review, including this one.

The CML report argues that, taken with a series of other reforms of the welfare system

in these sorts of views. They do not want to add to the financial burdens of borrowers.

The report, written by Steve Wilcox, an academic at the University of York and Holly Sutherland, from Cambridge University, will be unveiled at a one-day forum to be addressed by Hilary Armstrong, the housing minister.

The two writers argue that structural changes in the housing market mean that more borrowers than ever before operate in a climate of job uncertainty. In the event of a new economic downturn, the scale of repossession which has dropped below its peak of 60,000 a year in the early 1990s would begin to climb again.

Mr Wilcox and Ms Sutherland propose a combination of three policies to prevent the

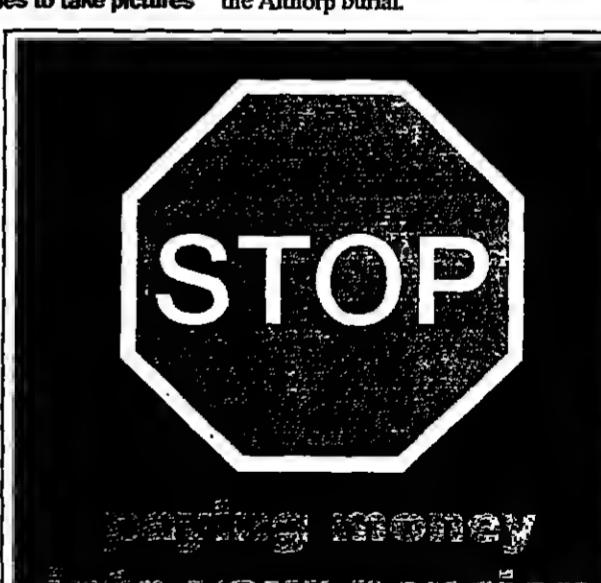
problem faced earlier this decade from recurring. The first would involve lender flexibility and a commitment not to repossess properties if mortgage debts rise in the first three or four months after borrowers lose their jobs.

Second, the authors suggest that while tax relief on cover might make insurance more popular, this move alone is unlikely to stimulate many people to take out insurance. They suggest compulsion is the best option, because it would allow lenders to provide it more cheaply, without "adverse selection" from people who expect to be made redundant before they take the insurance out.

The third proposal involves offering borrowers similar benefits as are made available to tenants on low income.

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## Reader, Jane Eyre was a woman who lived

David Lister  
Arts News Editor

Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, one of the best-loved novels in the English language, may have been inspired by a real person.

A Jane Eyre lived in Yorkshire, a few miles from the Brontës' home, and was known among Charlotte Brontë's circle, new research by a retired teacher has established.

Both the real life Jane Eyre and the fictional character were thwarted in love before marrying and enjoying happiness – "Reader, I married him", as the fictional Jane Eyre declares. There, though, the parallels seem to end.

added weight by Dr Patrick Wilson, of Keele University, whose ancestor Mary Liley was a cousin of Frances Jane Eyre. She was also a friend of Ellen Nussey, a close friend of Charlotte Brontë.

But last night Mike Hill, director of the Brontë Parsonage Museum, acknowledged: "It does make you look at *Jane Eyre* the novel in a slightly different way from now on. It pulls it down to earth a bit more."

Margaret Connor, a retired teacher from Fulneck near Leeds, found there was a woman called Frances Jane Eyre who lived in a Moravian settlement in her home village. The discovery was given

forwardness. "At that time female teachers were not allowed to marry. Mary Liley's journal actually refers to the woman as Jane Eyre and records that she was 'afterwards married to the Revd Dr Machell of Pudsey.'

Referring to her discovery of the name in the archives of Fulneck Moravian Church, Pudsey, Margaret Connor says: "I could hardly believe my eyes. Little did I think as a child that years later I would discover a Jane Eyre who may well have been the novel's namesake."

Mr Hill stressed: "It doesn't in any sense lessen Charlotte's ability as a storyteller to acknowledge that she may have taken on some of this."



Samantha Morton as Jane in the LWT adaptation of *Jane Eyre*. It appears there was a real Fanny Jane Eyre in Charlotte Brontë's circle

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Uphill struggle: Clive Langford with his flock at Brook Farm, Waterhouses, Staffordshire

Photograph: Newsteam

## Upland farmers take the high road out

Amanda Kelly

The long-term future of thousands of traditional family upland farms in some of country's most scenic and wild areas could be at risk unless the Government takes steps to help, farmers claimed yesterday.

Increasingly modest financial rewards have meant that vast numbers of young people are quitting the family business to find more prosperous work in towns and cities and they produce more than a quarter of the nation's milk.

Yet the 1996 Farm Business Survey carried out annually showed that 42 per cent of cattle and sheep farms in Less Favoured Areas had net farm incomes of less than £10,000.

This, coupled with harsh working conditions and reduced market prices in livestock, means that hill farming is no longer an attractive proposition for many.

Sir David said: "Farmers in the hills and uplands have to overcome many disadvantages including the weather, soil quality and remoteness. This is compounded by the fact that the current outlook for farm incomes on UK livestock farms as a whole is bleaker than it has been for years.

Farmers are now calling on the Government to increase the Livestock Compensation Allowances, an additional payment made to hill farmers over and above the European funding.

## More newspapers pledge royal privacy

Paul McCann  
Media Correspondent

A new era in relations between newspapers and the Royal Family seemed likely yesterday, following Earl Spencer's stinging attack on the press in his eulogy at Saturday's funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Sun, the Mirror, the Daily Star, the Daily Mail and local newspapers joined The Independent yesterday in making commitments not to publish intrusive or paparazzi pictures of the princesses William and Harry.

However, Lord Rothermere admitted on the BBC yesterday: "If my fellow proprietors don't agree with me, I don't know how long I can keep up that instruction."

The Express makes the same promise today in a leading article. It says it will only use pictures of the princesses authorised by Buckingham Palace and will stop using "snatched" photographs of celebrities.

The best-selling tabloids, the Sun and the Mirror whose circulation war has been blamed by some commentators for the

rise of intrusive celebrity journalism, also promised to leave the princesses alone.

"The Mirror will now work swiftly with the Press Complaints Commission to protect these boys from intrusive paparazzi photography," the paper's leader said yesterday.

The Sun, for its part, said it had "no intention of carrying photographs which invade the privacy of Princes William and Harry."

The Times has a policy of only using "intrusive" photographs if there is a serious public interest.

The Daily Telegraph is known to believe that the tabloids need to rethink their entire approach to the Royals.

At present, the rules simply state that children under 16 cannot be interviewed without their parents' permission.

The new found respect for the privacy of the Royals will be underlined when the Press Complaints Commission meets this Thursday to adapt the code governing newspapers' behaviour.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, is touring newspaper offices this week to discuss changes before the meeting.

On the agenda are changes in the rules covering the interviewing or photographing of the children of famous people. At present, the rules simply state that children under 16 cannot be interviewed without their parents' permission.

There is also likely to be a strengthening of the committee's code of conduct to make sure that any freelance photographers working for them also comply with the PCC code on intrusive and privacy.

In direct relation to the two

princes it is expected that the PCC-brokered agreement not to photograph them at school in return for formally posed shots on holiday or at Balmoral will be scrapped to give the boys even more privacy.

He said: "To date, the press have offered as little as possible in response to public revulsion at press intrusion.

"The press had already agreed - two years ago - not to snitch pictures of Prince William at school and this extra undertaking by some newspapers will do little to satisfy those that believe that intrusion into, particularly, private grief and into private life, using modern technology, must be curbed."

## Call for Heathrow airport to be named after Diana

Louise Jury

The desire for permanent memorials to Diana, Princess of Wales, prompted calls yesterday for Heathrow Airport to be renamed and for a children's hospital in her honour to be built in place of the Millennium Dome.

As tens of thousands of pounds flooded in to the Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fund, the debate began over other appropriate memorials to the princess.

Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP for Cheltenham, wrote to BAA, which operates Heathrow, urging a name change which would echo Paris's Charles de Gaulle and New York's John F Kennedy airports in honouring national heroes. William Hague, the Conservative leader, backed the idea.

Tory MP Sir Tedd Taylor called for the cancellation of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich and for an international

children's hospital to be built on the site instead. He said he had received hundreds of letters of support for the idea.

A Downing St spokesman said the special committee headed by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, which will examine memorial ideas, would take cross-party soundings on all suggestions. "Nothing is ruled out and nothing is ruled in."

Donations poured into the memorial fund. Around 350 mourners an hour have called for a 24-hour credit card line to make pledges, and extra BT volunteers have been drafted in to help.

The average size of each donation was £20, making £7,000 an hour and £168,000 a day. These sums supplement thousands of cheques filling post bags to Kensington Palace, said Kate Day, of Mishcon de Reya, the law firm which acted for the princess and which will administer the fund.

About 2,700 cheques have been cleared so far. Nearly all come from private individuals, most of whom have sent between £5 and £10.

Only two trustees - Anthony Julius, the princess's lawyer, and Michael Gibbons, her private secretary - have been appointed for the fund so far. No decisions have been made as to whether it will be a short-term or long-term institution, but among the charities likely to benefit are those Princess Diana was associated with at her death.

The fund will be boosted tonight by proceeds from the game between Fulham football club, whose chairman is Mohamed al-Fayed, and Plymouth Argyle.

Mr al-Fayed, whose son, Dodi, died with Princess Diana, will make his first public appearance since her funeral tonight. A lone piper will play a lament, which will be followed by a minute's silence.

## Bodyguard could make full recovery from crash injuries

John Lichfield  
Paris

Trevor Rees-Jones, the only survivor of the crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, could make a full recovery, his family said yesterday.

Mr Rees-Jones, a bodyguard employed by the al-Fayed family, suffered severe facial and head injuries but these were not as serious as early reports suggested. In particular, officials have denied a leak from the Hôpital Sainte-Présidente hospital last week which suggested that his tongue was severed and he may never talk again.

The former paratrooper's mother and father, Jill and Ernie Rees-Jones, issued a press statement in Paris yesterday in which they revealed that their son had a 10-hour operation last Thursday "for facial reconstruction".



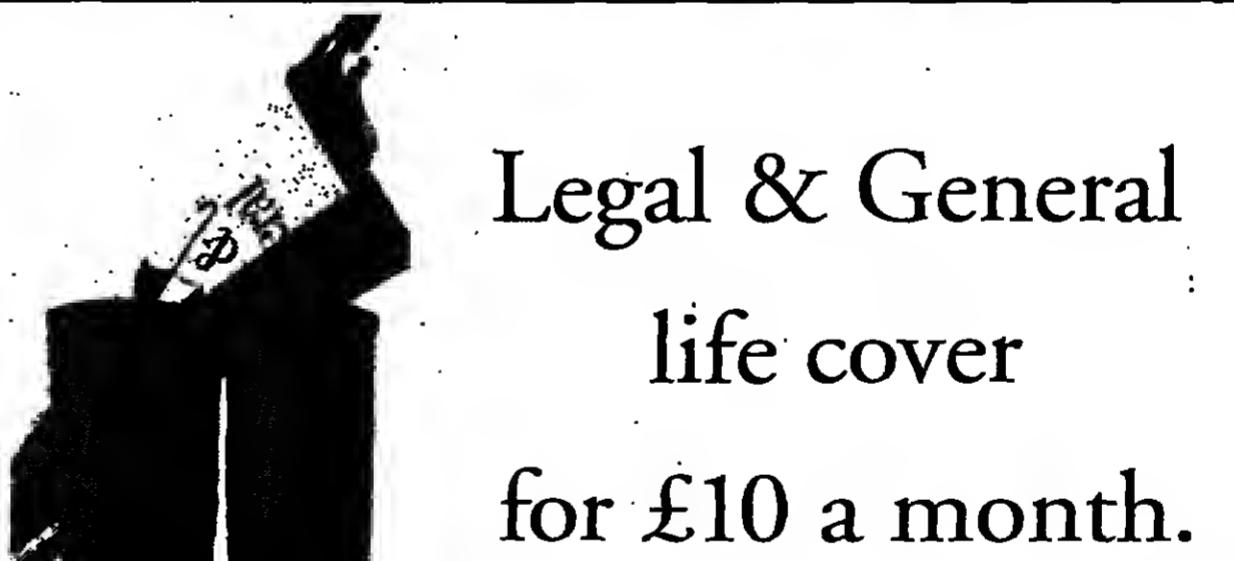
Trevor Rees-Jones: Facial operation was successful

The couple thanked the medical team at the hospital and the al-Fayed family, which has been paying the bills for their stay in Paris.

A street in Paris - possibly close to the site of the crash last Sunday week - is likely to be named after Princess Diana.

A small square, beside the exit from the underpass in which Princess Diana's car crashed, was due to be renamed after Maria Callas this week, but this was delayed yesterday by the Mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi. The town hall said he intended to consult with the families of the crash victims before proposing a site to the council.

Officials added that the square near the underpass could now be reserved for Princess Diana but that this would depend on the views of



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## news

## Bank expects high rate of interest in open day

Kim Sengupta

The august Courtroom of the Bank of England can be viewed for the first time ever by the public as part of this year's Heritage Open Days. Visitors will be given a guided tour of the neo-classical room, where the Bank's directors meet before deciding on economic affairs of state. The Courtroom, designed by Sir Robert Taylor in 1774, was moved from its original ground floor location to the first floor during rebuilding work between 1925 to 39.

The room is the traditional place for the Bank's governing board to gather before adjourning to an adjoining office to rule on matters such as the interest rates.

Nearly 2,000 buildings, from castles to cottages, abbeys to chapels, power stations to mills, and theatres to court houses, will open their doors with guided tours, exhibitions, talks and boat trips during Heritage Open Days '97.

Opening the event at the Bank in Threadneedle Street, Culture, Media, and Sport Secretary Chris Smith, said: "The Bank is participating in the event for the first time this year and I know that people will be fascinated to see behind the doors of key national institutions."

The event continues to grow in popularity and provides an excellent opportunity for people to see and appreciate the country's hidden wealth of buildings of historic, architectural or cultural interest.

The heritage open days started in France in 1985 and in 1991 the Council of Europe launched the European Heritage Days. Last year in Britain over 100,000 people visited 1,750 properties in London and throughout England.

The event will take place across England in various venues on the weekend of September 13-14, apart from the capital when it will be on September 20-21.



Treasure trove: Chris Smith launches this year's Heritage Open Days inside the Bank of England, where the Courtroom is to be opened to public view for the first time. Photograph: Nicola Kurk

## Hume will not run for Irish presidency



David McKittrick  
and Alan Murdoch

SDLP leader John Hume yesterday ended a month of political speculation by announcing that he would not put himself forward as next president of the Irish Republic.

In the statement he said he felt it his duty to stay with the SDLP in the task of working for "a new and agreed Ireland based on a lasting settlement and a lasting peace."

Describing the decision as very difficult, Mr Hume said he had been given many good reasons for seeking the presidency but that these had been outweighed by "the very serious crisis in the north."

His decision means he will lead his party into the political talks which re-open in Belfast today. It also means that Northern Ireland will not lose a man who for almost three decades has been a commanding figure in its political landscape.

Yesterday's announcement brought to an end a period of uncharacteristic prevarication on the part of the SDLP leader, who early last month said he would take some time to make up his mind on the matter.

The current president, Mary Robinson, leaves the post shortly to take up a senior position with the United Nations. She said yesterday, during a visit to Belfast, that long-term sustainable peace was within reach "if the risks

for peace that people have taken in their own lives can be reflected in the more difficult set of circumstances of a political framework."

Opinion polls and other evidence in the Republic have shown that Mr Hume's popularity has been overtaken by that of any of the other potential contenders to succeed Mrs Robinson. The almost universal feeling is that if he wanted the post he could have had it.

Mr Hume has been a pivotal figure at the centre of political negotiations since the late 1960s, in more recent years playing a crucial role in the peace process which has led to two cessations of IRA violence. During that period he has also amassed a formidable stockpile of political capital in Dublin, Washington and Europe.

As such, his departure at a

time when efforts are being made to undermine ceasefires with new political arrangements would have been a major and potentially traumatic moment for Irish nationalism. The decision to stay means the SDLP leader, who was there at the eruption of the troubles, will face a chance of realising his ambition of being present at their conclusion.

Mr Reynolds' decision creates a crisis for the main Dublin Government party Fianna Fail (FF). Former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds now becomes the front-runner to seeking its nomination, but party leaders are worried that his tendency to speak out on delicate Northern Ireland issues could wrong-foot his successor Bertie Ahern during the imminent multi-party talks.

Despite his achievements in advancing the 1994 IRA and

Loyalist ceasefires, Mr Reynolds' image at home has suffered from events surrounding the collapse of his government, his role in allowing controversial credits for beef exports to Saddam Hussein's Iraq which may have cost taxpayers £100m, and his involvement in a series of legal actions against the press.

Fine Gael have two declared hopefuls, Mary Banotti MEP, 58, a grand-niece of Michael Collins, and former junior minister Avril Doyle, 48.

Labour will consider their options for supporting either an internal candidate or a non-party figure at a meeting today. FF and Fine Gael will discuss their selection at parliamentary party meetings next week. Independents and Greens are supporting Joyce Scholar and gay rights activist David Norris.

Singer Dana, backed by a small right-wing Christian prayer group, is unlikely to secure the 20 parliamentary or four local council endorsements required for a nomination.

## Sinn Fein lines up to sign pledge on non-violence

Protestants yet to make decision on attendance, writes David McKittrick

**F**ein. The general expectation is that the party will go to the talks but refuse to sit in the same room as Sinn Fein.

Today the Sinn Fein delegation is to sign up to the six "Mitchell principles" formulated by the chairman of the talks, former US Senator George Mitchell. These affirm a commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations, a renunciation of the use of force and agreement to abide by the terms of any new agreement reached in the next Monday.

Protestant opinion seems clearly in favour of participation in the talks, but party leaders are unlikely to agree to meet Sinn

Fein, and charge that the promise not to resort to force is meaningless. The familiar Sinn Fein response is that it is separate from the IRA and speaks only for itself.

The president of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, back from an American fund-raising tour, yesterday added the accusation that other parties which had already signed up to the Mitchell principles had in effect flouted them.

He said that loyalist groups whose representatives sat in the talks, had carried out killings, and the RUC and British army had used plastic bullets - contradicting the principles.

A Sinn Fein delegation which

yesterday met the minister for political development, Paul Murphy, complained of what it described as lack of movement in releasing republican prisoners as well as security force patrolling and searches.

The Government's proposed ban on foreign fund-raising by political parties could prove a significant blow to Sinn Fein, Labour MP Harry Barnes suggested last night, writes Anthony Bevins.

Mr Barnes, a member of the Commons select committee on Northern Ireland, reports that Sinn Fein have raised £250,000 of their recent fund-raising visit to the States should concern all British and Irish democrats.

Donors did not live in the UK or Ireland "and neither suffer nor enjoy the consequences of Sinn Fein's enhanced abilities to promote their message."

## Bid to block rail firm's bonus payment after trains cancelled

Randeep Ramesh  
Transport Correspondent

A regional transport authority wants to withhold "bonus payments" to a private rail company which cancelled more than 175 trains a week last month.

Mick Lyons, chair of West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority, said that passengers on Regional Railways North East (RRNE), which runs trains between Newcastle, Manchester and Liverpool, have faced with the worst service they have had in the last 10 years. In the most recent four-week accounting period 703 trains have been cancelled with a further 47 part-cancellations, he said.

The cuts in services have badly hit commuter lines around Leeds, where the company let 100 drivers take early redundancy. The problem is that while areas in West Yorkshire have been affected, the train operator has improved the service on other parts of the network.

This has meant that performance payments exceed the penalties for the cuts. For June, RRNE is entitled to a bonus of £185,000 - more than five times the £33,000 it faces in financial penalties for the cancellations.

The transport authority meets today to endorse the proposal put forward by Cllr Lyons. Under rail privatisation, the authority pays £47m a year for its local rail

services, run by bus company MTL since March, and also adjusts performance payments.

MTL has suffered from a lack of drivers on some routes. It also blames protracted negotiations with Aslef, the drivers' union, over a new wages and conditions package. A spokesman for MTL declined to comment.

However, rail industry insiders pointed out that the contract between the passenger authority and the private company are "legally binding". It is not up to politicians to decide when and if these payments are made. The authority just has to pay them, said one expert.

Jonathan Bray, campaign director for rail pressure group

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# Mensa racks its brains over who should succeed Sir Clive

Ian Burrell

An inquest next week into the mysterious death of the sacked executive director of Mensa will intensify a bitter power struggle in the society for people with high IQs.

The *Independent* has obtained a copy of an internal Mensa report which questions the organisation's decision to dismiss Harold Gale, who became deeply depressed and died after crashing his car in February.

The inquest follows the recent decision by Sir Clive Sinclair to step down as Mensa's chairman after 15 years.

The move has prompted a dirty battle to succeed him, with photographs of one male Mensa official wearing women's underwear being circulated ahead of next month's election.

Mr Gale was sacked after 19 years with Mensa over allegations that he ran a private business from the society's offices. An industrial tribunal last year was told that Mr Gale had kept the Mensa board in the dark over his activities, selling puzzles and a magazine called

way the society was run.

As Mr Ford began probing the society's financial affairs, a decision was taken to launch what has become known as "the dawn raid", when three senior Mensa officers arrived at the society's headquarters in Wolverhampton on 6 February 1995, suspended Mr Gale and another member of staff and changed the locks to the offices.

In May last year, Mr Gale took Mensa to an industrial tribunal in Birmingham. Although it ruled that he had been unfairly dismissed by his employer, Mensa Administration Ltd, he was not awarded compensation because it was decided that he had abused the organisation's trust.

But the *Ford report*, completed a month after Mr Gale's suspension, cites minutes from various meetings of the British Mensa committee, which clearly mention Mr Gale's business activities.

At a meeting on 28 April 1984, Mensa director David Schulman pointed out that: "The £6,000 per annum from the publication *Mind Games* was at present going to Mensa

done in the office's time," he said.

He said he had proposed that Mr Gale should resign and take a consultancy with Mensa but that Mr Ford said that it was a trick and had talked him out

of it.

"Things would have turned out very, very different," said Sir Clive.

After Mr Gale was sacked at the age of 54, friends said he became a broken man, finding it

difficult to find employment and slipping into financial difficulties.

Then on 23 February he died after crashing his car. An inquest into the death will take place next week in Telford, Shropshire.

Two days after the inquest, to which some Mensa members are expected to be called to give evidence, Mensa will hold its first charity ball. Guests described as "a heady mix of high

IQ and high society" will gather at St Ermin's hotel in Westminster for a champagne reception, dinner and cabaret.

Sir Clive, who will retain membership of the society, said he hoped the election would in-

ject new vigour into the society. "I have been chairman for something like 15 years now and I just think it's long enough. It needs new blood."

□ Answer to puzzle: Rainbow

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John Gilligan: Facing murder charge in Irish Republic

# Legal delay hits Guerin extradition

Jason Bennetto  
Crime Correspondent

Extradition proceedings against an alleged Dublin crime boss accused of murdering the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin opened yesterday, but were immediately challenged in court.

The Irish authorities want to bring John Gilligan back to Dublin and charge him with the murder of Ms Guerin, the possession and importation of drugs, and firearms offences.

At the hearing at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in south-east London, which was surrounded by armed guards throughout, was adjourned until two weeks tomorrow after a challenge of abuse of process by Gilligan's lawyers.

Ms Guerin, 37, was shot dead at the wheel of her car in Dublin in June last year. Her killing followed a series of newspaper articles exposing the activities of Dublin gangsters and provoked a national outcry and a huge police investigation.

One man, Paul Ward, 32,

from Cumbria, Dublin, has already been charged with her murder.

Mr Gilligan, 45, of Blanckards Town, Dublin, was in Woolwich Crown Court earlier yesterday to face charges of drug smuggling and possession in Britain after being arrested by Customs and Excise at Heathrow Airport last October.

But Customs and Excise attempted to adjourn the case to allow extradition proceedings to start later in the day at the magistrates' court because of the severity of the allegations in the Republic of Ireland.

As well as the murder offence the Irish authorities are also seeking Mr Gilligan's return on six charges of possession of cannabis with intent to supply, five charges of importing cannabis and six charges of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life. The weapons included a Sten gun, a silenced barrel, one 9mm machine pistol and magazine and five Walther 9mm automatic pistols.

At Woolwich Crown Court Nigel Peters, for the prosecu-

tion, told Judge Jeffrey Rucker: "Your honour will see charges include first and foremost murder, the murder of the Irish journalist Veronica Guerin."

He said the trial would not proceed on the basis of public interest, given the murder charge and the spirit of international co-operation.

Mr Gilligan's lawyer, Clare Montgomery QC, objecting to the adjournment of the Crown Court hearing, demanded the judge to order Customs and Excise to offer no evidence and record out guilty verdicts. She said it was unlawful to leave one case unfinished before moving on to another and called for an abuse of process hearing.

Paul Riddle, stipendiary magistrate at Belmarsh Magistrates', ruled that a special abuse of process hearing would take place two weeks tomorrow to decide whether it was unlawful to adjourn one set of proceedings while going ahead with another.

Mr Gilligan was remanded in custody.



Veronica Guerin: Investigative journalist murdered in Dublin last June

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a few months later, it's real. If you keep an average balance of £2,000 you could save £150 a year. It's also extremely flexible, you set your own spending limit.

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# Revealed: secret life of the white whale

**Charles Arthur and Nicholas Schoon**  
report from the British Association's Festival of Science

Polar animals, such as beluga whales and elephant seals, have amazed scientists with their ability to navigate through enormous tracts of ocean and control their metabolism to stay alive.

The beluga also have a strange habit of dining in single-sex restaurants. Tiny tracking devices developed by British scientists are helping to shed light on the extraordinary and hitherto unknown roaminings of this small, pure white whale.

Dr Tony Martin, of the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrews University, told the British Association's annual Festival of Science in Leeds that the new technology had transformed their understanding of the fish-eating beluga.

It was thought to be a coastal, shallow-water species. It turns out that it can travel thousands of miles each year, dive to more than half a mile in depth and navigate long distances under ice, finding tiny, thinly scattered patches of unfrozen water where it must surface to breathe.

With his research partly funded by the Canadian government, Dr Martin is studying a group of belugas which migrates each year to the Mackenzie Delta on Canada's north coast, near the Alaskan border. There, they shed their skin over three weeks, scraping it off on the bottom before moving on.

Dr Martin's team has attached tracking devices to dozens of the whales. The devices continuously record the



depth of the whales. Whenever the animal surfaces to breathe, the device, about the same size as a mobile phone, rapidly beams its record of time and depth up to a satellite in a burst of electronic data simultaneously registering the exact location of the whale.

From such data he has found that the whales follow "invisible motorways" as they head to sea, all following the same track. Mature males, weighing up to two tons, were found to head north, seeking out "the deepest trench for hundreds of miles around".

They then dived repeatedly to a depth of 500m, spending many minutes at the bottom. Dr Martin believes they were feeding on polar cod. "There must be fantastic food resources there," he said.

Only males ever go to this single-sex restaurant. Females and the young head for shallower

feeding grounds. He believes this is because they cannot dive for as long or to the same depth.

He also found another sort of dive, in which the males go as deep as 700m, then immediately

return to the surface instead of spending time looking for food.

Dr Martin believes they do this because it helps them locate air holes in the ice many miles away, probably using sound.

"We found that, far from being

coastal, they have access to the

entire Arctic ocean," he said.

As a result, he thinks their

population may be more than

twice as high as official estimates

of 40,000 to 80,000. More than

2,000 are killed for food each year

by native peoples living in the

high Arctic. Being small, they are

not covered by the Internation-

al Whaling Commission's mora-

atorium on killing great whales.

Research by Professor Mike

Fedak, another member of the

Sea Mammal Research Unit,

suggests that elephant seals liv-

ing in the Antarctic appear to

Arctic explorer: Beluga whales have been found to swim vast distances and to dive to great depths, rather than sticking to shallow coastal waters, as had been thought.

Photograph: Pete Atkinson/Planet Earth

have some as yet unknown means of communication to tell each other where the best food sources are.

"Mothers dump their pups on the shoreline, leaving them with about one month's worth of fat to live off," said Prof Fedak. "They have to survive or die. In fact, about 50 per cent of pups die in their first year."

But those which survive seem to travel, alone, along the same routes and converge on the same feeding grounds. "They can navigate to places that they haven't been to before," such as tiny islands, Prof Fedak said.

"There is no evidence yet that they make loud calls. But nobody knows, down there."

Leading article, page 13  
Commentators, page 15

## Sea birds could help set EU fishing quotas

The behaviour of gulls and terns should be used to help set European fish quotas, an ecology professor argued at the science festival yesterday.

Pat Monaghan of Glasgow University said that all the evidence showed that sea birds were vastly more than fishermen at finding fish. Their movements, success in breeding and physical condition could provide valuable information about the state of the stocks.

"They could be a useful component of fisheries management," she said. "For instance, we know hardly anything about sand eels [a small, very abundant fish near the base of the North Sea food web]. The birds know infinitely more about them than us."

Professor Monaghan said that when the sand eels stocks collapsed around Shetland in the late 1980s and early 1990s, sea bird colonies which were being studied were severely affected.

When fish stocks are low, observation has shown that the birds have far less free time because they have to spend much longer periods fishing. In times of plenty, the parent or fishing

duty – rather than being permanently with the egg and chick – can be seen hanging around the nest, resting for long periods.

Some birds will only give very local information: arctic terns, for instance, do not fish much more than two miles from their nests. But others, like the kittiwake, travel as far as 25 miles. "They're not flying around for fun," said the professor. "Flying and fishing costs them energy. The greater the food available, the less far they would fly."

She suggested that radio tracking devices, which showed how far and where sea birds travelled and also their body weight at the start of the breeding season, would give most information about the distribution and size of fish stocks.

"We could go into partnership with the sea birds to our mutual benefit," she said. "The birds could tell us more about the state of fish populations which would hopefully lead to better management of them. And that in turn would prevent the over fishing and stock collapses which kill birds and put fishermen out of work."

## Beckett plans better deal for academics

The Government hinted heavily yesterday that it thinks thousands of university staff currently in short-term research contracts should in future enjoy greater benefits and longer tenure.

The President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, told the festival that the growing number of contract staff had not been well-managed; their potential had not been used as it should have been.

Instead, she noted, many such workers – whose contracts vary between two months and a few years – have given up science altogether or moved overseas.

Dr Tom Whiston, from the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Surrey, said yesterday: "The particular problem that short-term workers face is that they haven't got any career prospects... A lot of contract researchers feel they are treated as second-class citizens." He puts the number of scientists on short-term contracts at around 5,000.

Anecdotal evidence also suggests that many people with science training abandon it and move to other professions which have more stable career structures and clearer promotion paths. Though Britain's universities turn out thousands of en-

gineers and scientists every year, companies frequently complain of a shortage of appropriate staff.

Even for those who stay in the business, the contract renewal process may also be counter-productive: Dr Whiston's research shows that people are more productive (in terms of papers published) in the second half of their contract than the first, irrespective of the length of contract. That means the settling-in period at the start of a contract is largely wasted – which implies that fewer changes of contract would be more beneficial.

Mrs Beckett said that a review is now under way to identify "best practice" in "managing and developing a valuable resource". She held up staff management costs, maternity benefits and long-term sickness pay as important elements of contracts which should be borne by universities, not the researchers.

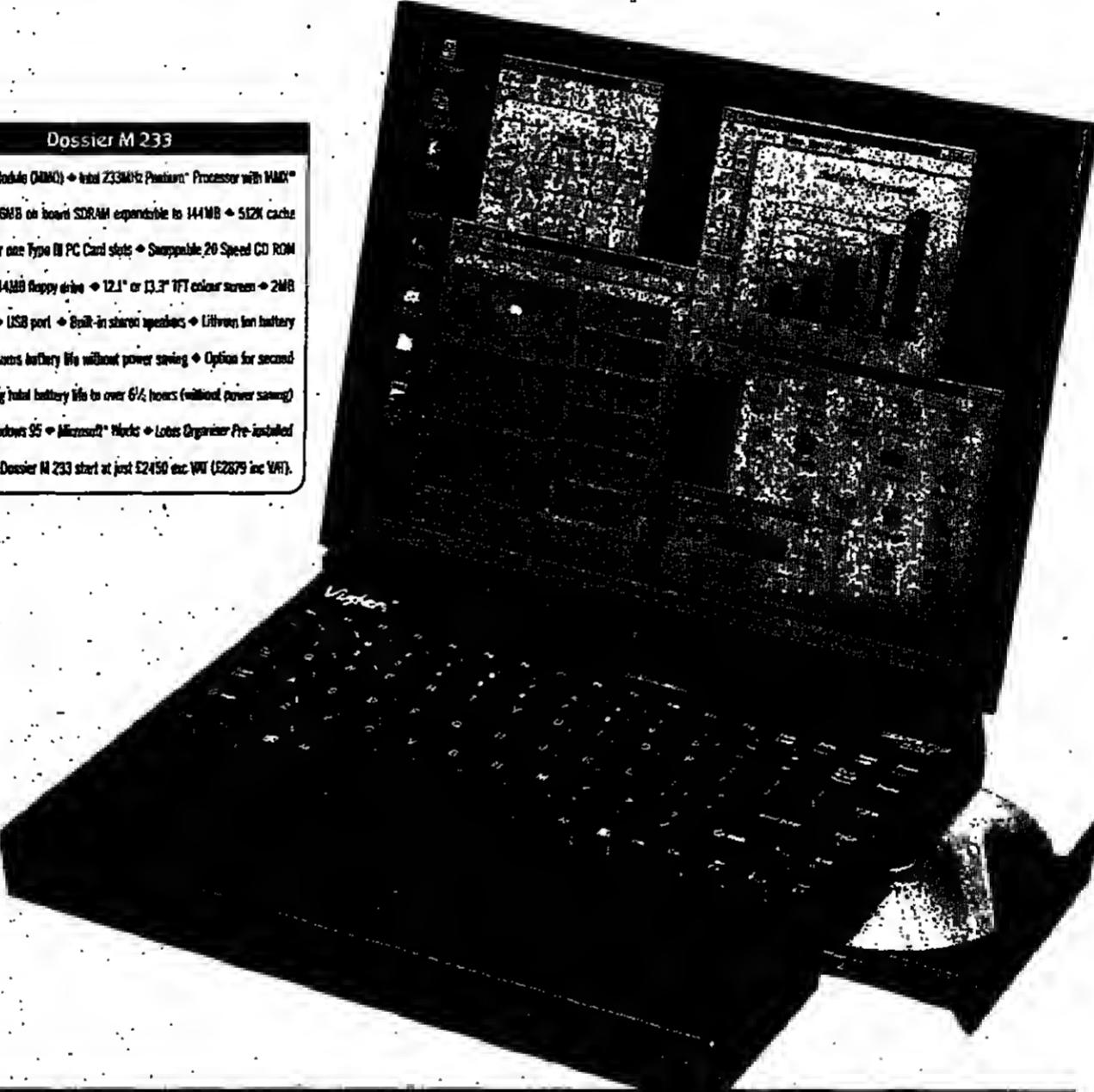
Dr Whiston said: "There are some possible benefits to contracting: it means you aren't tied to one area, as happens with academic tenure. It also encourages entrepreneurship." But he agreed that the disadvantages include the loss of crucial knowledge when people move out of science.

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# Blair will tell the TUC to modernise

Barrie Clement

Tony Blair today becomes the first prime minister for 19 years to address the TUC Congress. He does so amid demands that the Government go much further on union rights and after complaints from one of his ministers about public expenditure policy.

Delegates to the conference in Brighton unanimously urged the legalisation of secondary action and full protection from the first day of employment.

At a fringe meeting Michael Meacher, the environment minister, declared that he was "in considerable difficulties" coping with the Tory spending limits accepted by the Government and said that some areas were "crying out" for extra expenditure.

In a keynote address to the conference, Tony Duggins, President of the TUC, insisted that Unions were not "asking

for anything revolutionary," but the Prime Minister will feel considerable unease about the demands made yesterday by trade unions.

Mr Blair has registered his determination to keep most of the employment laws introduced by the previous government, including its ban on supportive strikes by one group of workers for another.

The Prime Minister's speech today is expected to call on unions to "modernise" and enhance their members' contribution to the economy through training rather than by relying on industrial muscle to improve their lot.

Supporting the motion for employment rights from the first day of work, John Edmonds, General Secretary of

the GMB general union, said he "shivered a little" when he heard members of the Labour Government using words such as "flexibility" beloved of erstwhile Conservative ministers.

He said protection "from the first minute of the first day of the first week of employment" was a hallmark of a civilised society. Labour has abandoned such a pledge made by John Smith.

In his main speech John Monks, the TUC's General Secretary, invoked the name of Diana, Princess of Wales. He said trade unionists should attempt to capture something of the public mood generated by her death. "I hope that her legacy will be the flowering of a new compassion and bring people together in rejecting rampant, uncaring individualism," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Meacher said that ministers were having to work with "the tightest spending controls in living memory" and he called the limits a "straightjacket".

He said officials were preparing a law which would protect "whistle-blowers" who exposed employers for damaging the environment.

He said the Health and

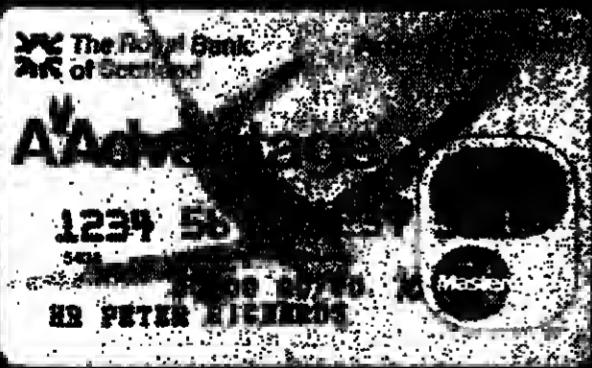
Safety Executive should be able to draw up a law by the end of the year, but legislation was unlikely until November 1998-99. Those who exposed malpractice were putting their jobs at risk and should be protected from victimisation, he said.

The minister also announced the establishment of a TUC group on the environment to mirror an employers' committee already set up by the previous government.



Home run: Tony Blair in Edinburgh yesterday as campaigning for the polls on home rule for Scotland and Wales began again in earnest. Photograph: Brian Harris

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## Howard says Brussels is threat to Nato

Anthony Bevans  
Political Editor

Tory divisions over Europe were reopened last night by Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, with a warning that Brussels threatened the nation state and the Nato alliance.

After the election of William Hague as Conservative leader, some moderate Conservatives said he had given them strong private assurances that they need not fear a further right-wing lurch against Europe.

But last night's speech by Mr Howard, to New York's Manhattan Institute, will bear out the worst fears of Tory left-wingers, who will publicly defy the new leadership if it insists on pushing such a strongly anti-European line.

Raising the spectre of individual member states being swamped by the federal ambitions of some European leaders, Mr Howard said: "The nation state must remain the basic building block of the European Union."

"People are naturally proud of their own countries. Politicians who ignore that pride and sense of identity do so at their own peril. To undermine institutions and ways of life which have developed over hundreds of years in the pursuit of a federal Europe would be the utmost folly."

On numerous occasions senior Conservatives like Sir Edward Heath and Lord Howe have pointed out that the EU does not threaten the integrity of the nation state, national pride, or traditional ways of life.

But Mr Howard went on to warn: "Europe is not a nation, and it is dangerous for the EU to aspire to the trappings and functions of statehood while lacking real nationality."

"Its people speak 30 languages and dialects and vote for over 100 major parties. Trying to build new institutions or transferring wide-ranging powers from long-standing institutions to new ones will end in disaster if those new institutions do not have the wholehearted consent of those they are sup-

posed to serve."

Mr Howard also told his American audience that the most enthusiastic federalists also wanted to undermine the pre-eminence of the United States in the western alliance.

He said that if there had been a common European foreign and security policy during the Gulf war, there would have been a majority against intervention.

"As an independent country," Mr Howard said, "the United Kingdom was able to send ground and air forces to the Gulf; as part of a European federation, we would have had to abide by the agreed policy."

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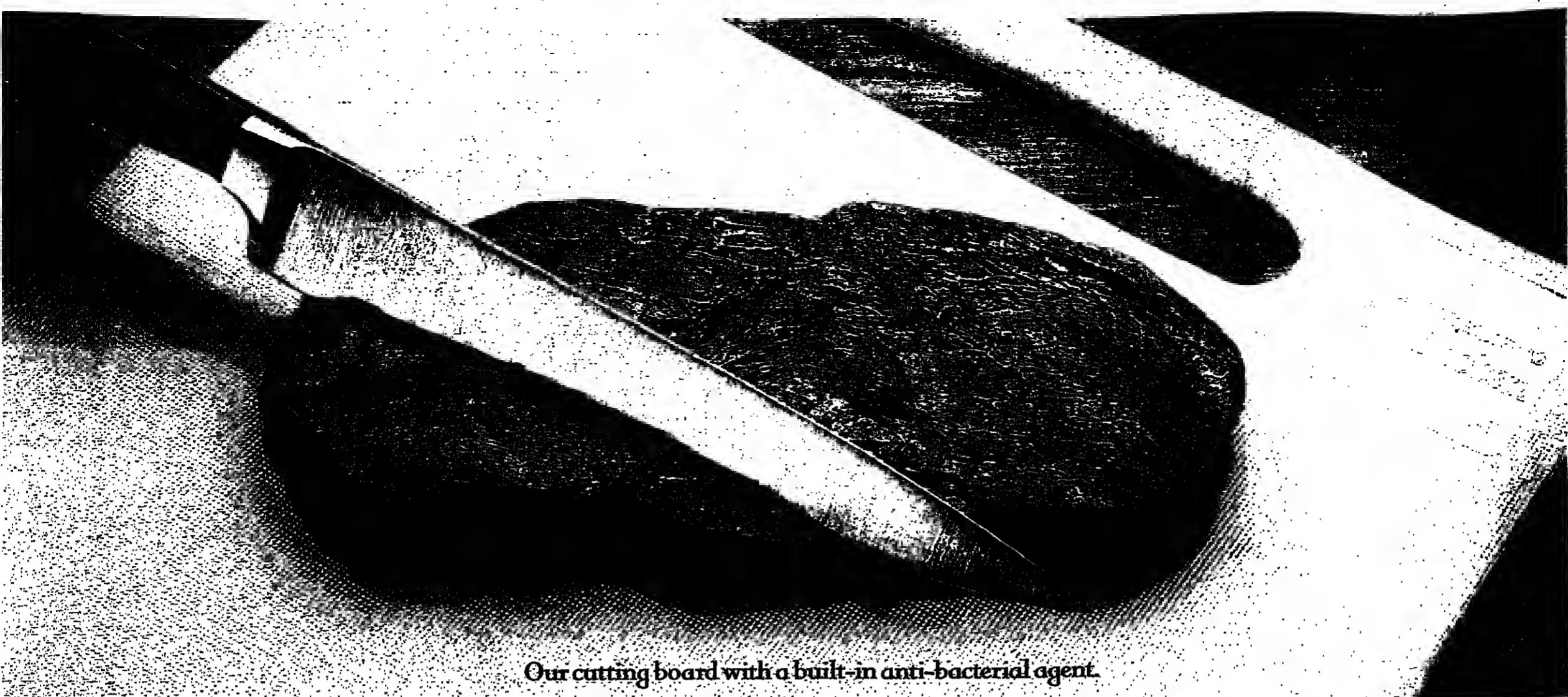
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# Witness says he saw Winnie murder boy

Mary Braid

Johannesburg



Stompe Moeketsi: Stabbed to death in 1991.

Winnie Mandela murdered the teenage black activist Stompe Moeketsi by stabbing him while one of her bodyguards held him down, according to a key witness who disappeared before testifying at her trial for kidnapping the boy.

Katiza Cebekulu, once a close associate of President Nelson Mandela's former wife, claims that in 1989 he watched her stab Stompe twice after accusing him of spying. He claims Jerry Richardson, the captain of Mrs Mandela's infamous Mandela United Football team, which terrorised Soweto in the late 1980s, restrained the boy.

Mr Richardson was jailed for life for Stompe's murder after a trial in 1991. Mrs Mandela, who denied the murder, was found guilty of kidnapping Stompe. A six-year jail sentence was later commuted to a R15,000 (£2,000) fine.

"Winnie had something sharp in her hand," Mr Cebekulu claims in journalist Fred Bridgland's new book, *Katiza's Journey: Beneath the Surface of South Africa's Shame*. "I cannot say whether it was a knife or a pair of scissors ... I saw how she lifted her arm twice and stabbed Stompe twice. I could not see whether she hit him on the neck or on the chest."

The book also claims that the former white South African government and the African

apartheid from South Africa and is currently in London under the wing of former MP Emma Nicholson, has applied to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for amnesty for apartheid-era crimes. The Commission, charged with exposing the truth about the apartheid era, has the power to grant amnesty in return for full confession.

According to the Johannesburg *Mail and Guardian* Mr Cebekulu, in his affidavit to the Commission, has confessed to taking part in another murder ordered by Winnie Mandela.

Mr Mandela has claimed that she is being persecuted. She says she will refuse the Commission's offer to give evidence in private and appear publicly as she has nothing to hide.

Ms Nicholson will meet the Commission in Cape Town as the book is being launched. She has power of attorney over Mr Cebekulu's affairs.

The two men – Thulani Dlamini and Cyril Mbatha – were later convicted of the doctor's murder and claimed robbery was their motivation. Both the *Mail and Guardian* claims the men have now alleged from prison that Mrs Mandela contracted them to kill the doctor to cover up Stompe's murder. The doctor died four weeks after Stompe was found lying in a ditch with his throat cut.

The Commission said last week that Mrs Mandela would be questioned about the doctor's death. Commission officials have also said that she will also be asked about the disappearance of other Soweto children.

Mr Mandela has claimed that she is being persecuted. She says she will refuse the Commission's offer to give evidence in private and appear publicly as she has nothing to hide.



A triumphant Winnie Mandela leaving court in Johannesburg in March 1992 after being cleared of murder. Now a key witness who went missing shortly before the trial claims in a new book that she saw her murderer Stompe Moeketsi. Photograph: AFP

## World silent as Mobutu, robber baron supreme, dies

Mary Braid

The Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, 66, has died in Morocco four months after fleeing his capital, Kinshasa. His death, after years fighting cancer, ends his embarrassing attempts to find a country which would provide him with a permanent home.

The death of the despot in the leopard-skin hat, who bled his country dry during his 32-year presidency, was met with a resounding political silence.

The United States, Mobutu's old ally in the Cold War, which turned a blind eye as he siphoned billions of dollars from state coffers into his own personal bank accounts, long ago abandoned him.

France, which had the dubious distinction of sticking by him the longest, was low key to its response to his death. Jacques Rummelhardt, foreign ministry spokesman, said that it was for



Mobutu Sese Seko: Death ends search for new home

historians to judge "the excesses of his years in power". The French earned the hatred of Mobutu's 40 million poverty-stricken subjects for continuing to prop up his regime long after it was expedient, and during the take-over by Laurent Kabila's rebels, Zaireans threatened to "cut up" French people in the streets.

Only Kenya's president Daniel arap Moi mourned Mobutu's passing. Mr Moi was one of the last African leaders to visit Mobutu at Ghadilie, his luxurious palace in northern Zaire from where he finally flew into exile.

Even in death Mobutu's presence continues to be an embarrassment. His son Manda said yesterday in Rabat that he would be buried in Morocco in the next few days but might be moved later. Flanked by his two brothers Kongo and Nzanga, Manda said he did not know where his father would be buried. That would be up to

King Hassan of Morocco. In recent weeks the Moroccans have asked many to Mobutu's 50-strong entourage to leave the country.

Yesterday a spokesman for the government of Zaire, now renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo, said Mobutu's family was welcome to bring him home to rest. The public has been trying to seize Mobutu's personal fortune; by all accounts so vast it could wipe out much of the national debt of the country he left bankrupt.

Mobutu always had a brass neck about the wholesale looting of Zaire. In an interview on television in the US he once admitted his personal fortune could cover his country's debts, but he could not lend his country the money because he could not be sure he would get it back. It remains to be seen whether gaining access to Mobutu's stolen billions will be easier now he is dead.

Mobutu came to power in a coup in 1965, five years after Belgium pulled out of Africa's second largest country. At first he was seen as a strongman who could hold together a huge, unstable country comprising hundreds of tribes and language groups. In the Seventies he was feted by the US, which used the former Zaire as a springboard for operations into neighbouring Angola where Western-backed Unita rebels were locked in civil war with a Cuban- and Soviet-backed government. Because Mobutu was useful in the fight against Communism the brutality and repressive excesses of his regime was ignored.

Optimists yesterday celebrated Mobutu's death as marking the end of a shameful period in Africa's post-colonial history. The breed of tyrannical presidents-for-life which he represented, they say, is dying out, as a new type of leader – personified by Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni – emerges. The new breed, though not Western-style democrats, are opposed to corruption and in favour of good governance.

But while Mobutu's suffering has ended it is not certain that his country's has. Mobutu left in ruins a nation blessed with sufficient natural resources to be among the richest in Africa. Laurent Kabila is struggling against incredible odds. His disparate rebel alliance is said to be splitting and Mr Kabila is struggling to maintain control. It is yet to be seen whether Mobutu's horrific legacy can be overcome.

Obituary, page 16

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**Safety in space:** US scientists raise nuclear power alarm as Russian space station hits trouble again

# Fear of fall-out threatens voyage to Saturn

David Usborne  
New York

The launch of a NASA module bound for the planet Saturn, originally scheduled for early next month, may be threatened following claims that the US government is underestimating the risks associated with its nuclear power source.

The anti-nuclear lobby in the United States is mobilising itself to block the Cassini mission after hearing claims from a former senior NASA official that an unforeseeable mishap with the module could shower parts of the Earth with radioactive debris that could threaten millions with cancer.

Alan Kohn, who was NASA's emergency preparedness director for the launches of both the Ulysses craft towards the Sun in 1990 and the Galileo ship to Jupiter one year earlier, was due to underline his concerns at a Washington press conference yesterday.

*'If you keep launching these things, eventually you're bound to have an accident'*

Apollo 13 was lost on re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere and at present lies at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

Nasa is adamant that every precaution is being taken to eliminate possible scenarios where a disastrous failure could release the plutonium into the Earth's atmosphere. The batteries, for instance, are encased in iridium, a metal of extraordinary density.

Mr Kohn is not impressed. He told the *New York Times*: "Men and machines are fallible. If you keep launching these things, eventually you're bound to have an accident. It's inevitable."

"Nasa says this whole thing is safe. Nobody can make such a statement. I've seen too many rockets blow up."

There are three moments during the projected mission that fire concern. There is the launch itself. That was set for 6 October, but has since been delayed because of a recent accident on the launchpad that damaged some of the craft's protective layer. That incident has itself rung alarm bells.

Thereafter, however, risk of radioactive pollution will remain during an orbit of Earth by Cassini and later, in August 1999, when it is due once more to fly close to the Earth's atmosphere.

Among those backing up Mr Kohn is Dr Michio Kaku, a physicist at the City University of New York. While Nasa has put 10 deaths on Earth as the worst possible scenario, Dr Kaku believes the number of deaths through radioactive exposure following a catastrophe could reach more than 200,000.

Anthony that Mr Kohn's campaign should not ground the \$3.4bn Cassini mission, the government is moving to offer counter-evidence. "Our safety analysis is two-feet thick," a spokeswoman for the Energy Department told the *New York Times*. "There is absolutely no accident sequence that results in huge amounts of plutonium being released."

Phil Reeves

Moscow

There have been many times when the astronaut Michael Foale has appeared to be living in an Arthur C Clarke story, but rarely more so than yesterday. The Briton and his Russian colleagues were compelled to shut down most of the Mir space station's systems because of what controllers called a "capricious" computer.

"Capricious" is not a word often used to describe space tech-

nology – unless, of course, referring to Hal, the megalomaniacal fictional computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. But, then, nor is "jumbed", although that is what Mir increasingly seems to be.

The breakdown was the third computer failure within three months, and is yet another addition to the station's litany of setbacks. These include a fire, a prang with a cargo ship, oxygen supply problems, and a Russian commander – now back on earth – who complained of a heart flutter.

At Mission Control outside Moscow, scientists were yesterday at a loss to say exactly why the computer abruptly turned itself off, after it declared an emergency and blacked out. "The computer has become capricious again," said Valery Lyndin, a Russian spokesman.

The crew promptly closed down most vital systems – including the oxygen supply system and gyrodyne that keep Mir aligned to the sun – to save power while they searched for the fault.

Although the three cosmonauts on board are not considered by their controllers to be in any danger, computer failure is among the more serious of the 1,500 (mostly minor) breakdowns that Mir has experienced during its 11 years in space.

When a crew member unplugged the main computer by mistake in July, it sent Mir drifting into space for about a day while the cosmonauts groped around the darkness with torches. There were further problems last month, when a computer section crashed dur-

ing a relocking manoeuvre.

Yesterday Pavel Vinogradov, Mir's engineer, said that this time Mir was maintaining its position; power and oxygen reserves were reported adequate.

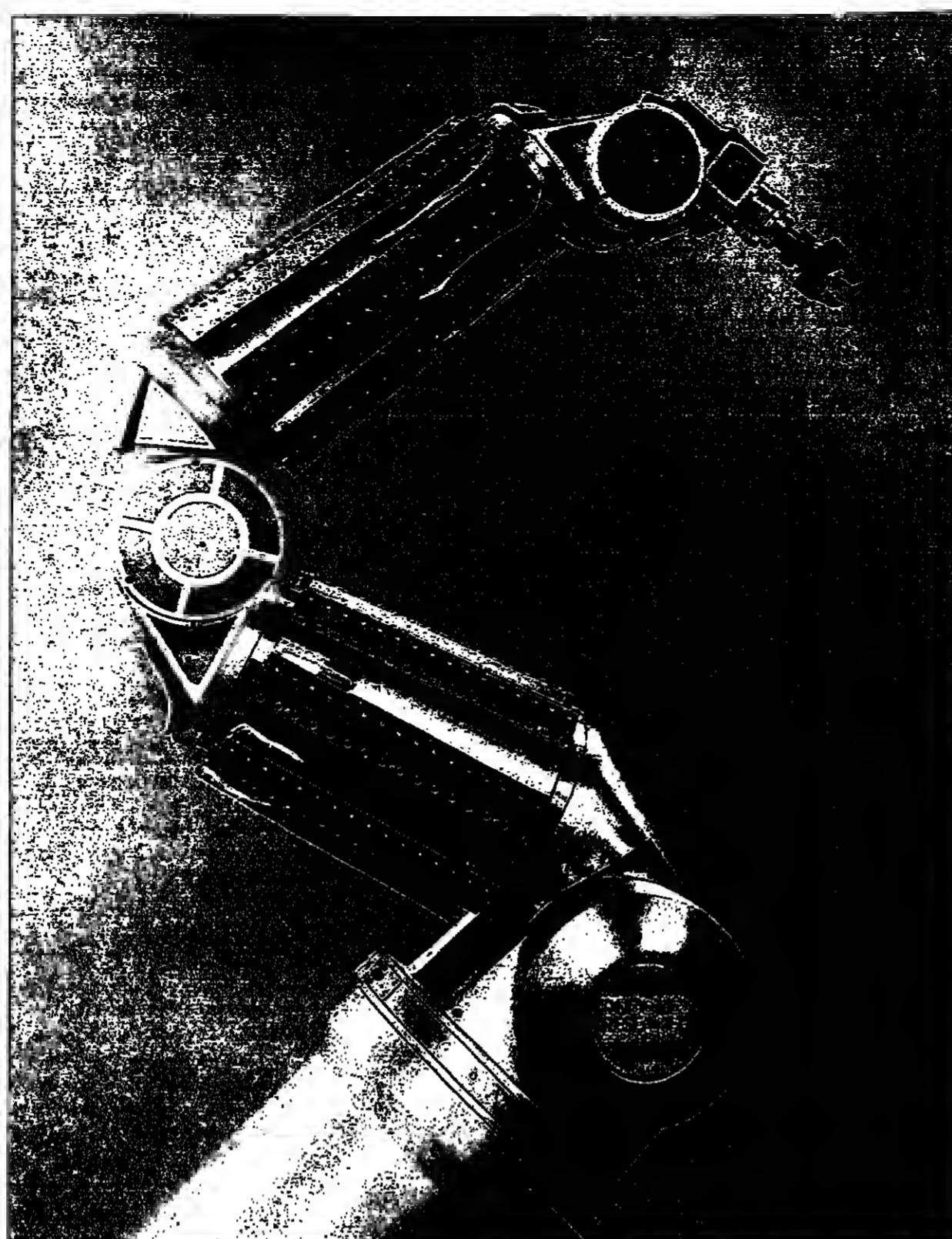
Last weekend, Mir's controllers had hoped to stem the tide of mishaps and bad publicity by announcing that they had found a hole in Spektr, the science module damaged when a cargo ship crashed into it in June. After a space walk that lasted nearly six hours, Dr Foale and Anatoly Seregov, the sta-

backgrounds in order to "invite a clear-minded reflection upon the technological sublime", according to the gallery.

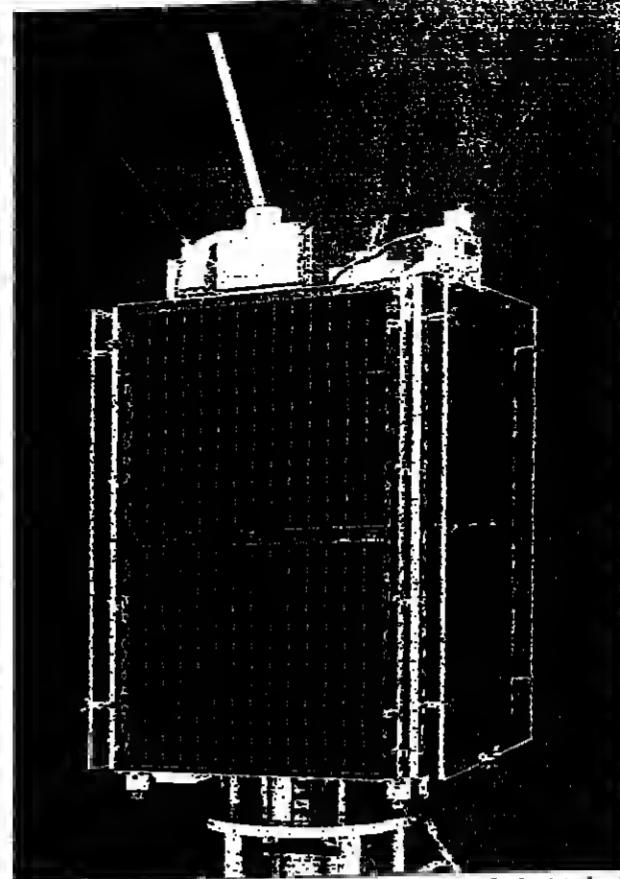
Both the book and the exhibition are named *Deep Blue* after the chess computer that defeated the world champion Garry Kasparov earlier this year. The show is to move on to Cambridge and Carlisle later this year.

Fraser describes his photographs as "portraits of an emerging social class", although humans never feature as subjects. He once said: "The sacred is everywhere, and resides in the most unlikely places."

time to think again about the monarchy



*'Emerging class': An iron claw at the British company UK Robotics; an image from Deep Blue. Photographs: Peter Fraser*



*Sacred science: A communications device, photographed at the technology centre at Surrey University*

## Technology gets a deep blue tint

Peter Fraser's muse is technology, writes *Kathy Marks*. He spent three years visiting high-tech sites around the world, including NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston, to photograph computers and machines.

Tomorrow sees the launch of a new book of his work at the Stephen Friedman Gallery in London, featuring 11 pictures that are at present on show in Cardiff, the latest staging post of a travelling exhibition.

Fraser isolates small mechanical sections, such as the robotic arm, from their normal context and sets them against vividly coloured

backgrounds in order to "invite a clear-minded reflection upon the technological sublime", according to the gallery.

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## Capricious computer shuts Mir down

## German growth gives boost to single currency

Imre Karacs

Bonn

Germany looks set to fulfil the most important Maastricht criteria for European monetary union, thanks to an unexpectedly strong surge in its economy.

The export-led recovery, expected to be confirmed by the publication tomorrow of the latest growth statistics, is pushing the German public deficit to within a whisker of the 3 per cent figure laid down by Maastricht. The introduction of new accounting techniques will also shave off a decimal point or two, and the government seems confident that what little slab remains above the line can be massaged away.

Bonn's perceived failure to deliver the magic number has been one of the most serious destabilising factors in the run-up to monetary union in 1999. Conversely, a German 3.0 will be regarded by financial markets

and European governments as a strong boost to EMU.

According to leaked estimates of the latest growth rate, the economy has been expanding twice as fast in the second quarter of this year as originally thought. In the light of these figures, analysts have been hurriedly upgrading their forecasts for the rest of the year. Instead of a 2 per cent growth rate for 1997, research institutes now expect the economy to expand by more than 2.5 per cent.

That coincides roughly with the government's estimate, which until a few months ago had seemed wildly optimistic. The difference in growth rate is just about enough to fill the state's coffers to the level required by Maastricht. There will still be a budget hole, but it should be small enough for a man with the creative genius of the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, to fill.

The news gets even better next year. Helmut Kohl, the

Chancellor, has told his party that the economy will be growing by 3 per cent when elections are held next September. Much depends on this prediction coming true, but most economists agree with his assessment.

The bad news, truly rotten from the electoral point of view, is that the voters are unlikely to feel the effects of the recovery. Wages are stagnant, shops are barely surviving, and dole queues are getting no shorter. There are 4.3 million Germans out of work – about 11 per cent of the working population – and very few of them expect to find a job in the near future. Those who still have a job are terrified of losing it. Shopping sprees are out.

The recovery Germans read about is taking place almost entirely within the gates of a few factories and outside the country's borders. With the once up-wardly mobile Deutschmark on the slide, German exports

have rarely been so cheap – in Britain and the US. To domestic consumers the triumphs of Porsche in the US are of little relevance, however. The factories are not hiring, the construction sector is bust, and the public sector is cutting back.

For all these reasons, it is hard to find a German economist who is willing to be optimistic about the country's future. Those prepared to stick their necks out in this gloom are invariably found abroad.

The leading cheerleader is the Wall Street investment house JP Morgan, which last week broke ranks with the establishment by predicting that Germany's recovery will be sustainable.

The bank commended Germany for creating a "growth-friendly environment". Great news for the government, EMU, and German share-holders, in other words, but even this up-beat forecast expects no improvement in unemployment.

## Car makers drive up profits

Imre Karacs

Bonn

The joyful ringing of tills at German car factories heralds the renaissance of an industry once thought to be in terminal decline. In 1993, all but BMW posted massive losses. This year, every German-owned car concern is suffering from an embarras de richesses.

Porsche announced yesterday it had doubled profits in the financial year which has just ended, thanks largely to a 90-per cent increase of sales in the United States. Volkswagen-Audi has been increasing its market share throughout the world, and is ready to pour billions of deutschemarks into

Asia to take on the Japanese. Mercedes has turned a DM1bn (£350m) loss into a DM1.5bn profit within three years. It needs to build new plants abroad to keep up with demand. The new Mercedes A-class due to be launched at the Frankfurt motor show later this week, has already been ordered by 110,000 customers.

By the standards of its domestic competitors, BMW's progress has been spectacular: sales up by a quarter in the US this year, and last year's profit at DM800m. The company's indifferent performance, however, is attributed not to the soaring costs of German labour but to problems at Rover, BMW's British subsidiary. The

expensive German workers turn in a 7-per cent profit on turnover, says BMW's boss, Bernd Pischetsrieder. At Rover the workers "do long hours, have low wages, yet the company is making a loss".

The success of the German car industry is attributed to massive restructuring carried out since the early Nineties. Some 200,000 workers have been sacked and the factories are slow to re-hire even in the boom times. Wages have been kept low, the turnover of models has speeded up and flexible working patterns imposed. However, as the rest of the economy might be, the car industry demonstrates Germany can be reformed.

not a bean

not a sausage

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It's what you want to know

JOHN LEWIS

# How to make the best of British science

The annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, taking place this week, is usually an extraordinary mixture of serious science and "geek whiz" trivialities, of leading-edge results presented by world authorities and obscure presentations by professors who emerge blinking like moles only to disappear again into their labs for ever more. The festival's eclecticism has grown. In recent years social researchers have leapt on the bandwagon. As a consequence we get reports of recent work by economists and sociologists; some of it will be interesting but difficult to relate, either in rigour, method or significance to zoologists' tales of talking seals or the latest from the Human Genome Project.

The BA is in short a baggy compendium and the note of sheer fun it often sounds is no bad thing. The extensive newspaper coverage it generates reflects public interest, which goes beyond fascination with gimmicks and gadgets. It is tempting to conclude that, if this jamboree is any guide, British science is in fair shape.

Scientists themselves are unlikely to agree. For the BA is also their annual opportunity to plead for more money. This week we are going to hear again about the huge number of "alphabetised" projects which get turned down by the Particle Physics and Astronomy or the Biotechnology and Biological

Sciences Research Councils. Margaret Beckett was invited to the BA yesterday not because she is especially interested in quarks and charms but because she is the scientists' paymaster. Labour showing no inclination to reverse the Tories' decision to place the research councils at the tender mercies of the Department of Trade and Industry. If past form is any guide, organisations such as Save British Science will announce doom is around the corner. Scientists have a point about the aggregate amount available for "pure" research but they are also in danger of exaggerating their case into incredulity.

There is a case for more money going into non-applied science—that is to say, the kind of science supported by the research councils—but it is one that needs to be made with more precision than the Royal Society and the British Association usually manage. The first thing to get over to the public is that nationalism is very bad guide to science funding. British science is an oxymoron: knowledge advances internationally, the peer group of biologists and chemists in Cambridge or Newcastle-upon-Tyne includes Germans, Japanese and above all Americans. That is not an argument against national governments spending substantial amounts of public money on science. What it does say is that they and the scientists begging for grants need to recognise an international

division of scientific labour. Particle colliders and human genome projects are not the only science that only gets done by means of international cooperation.

It is no tragedy if Britain ceases to be represented at the top table in certain fields or disciplines. Scientists, it is true, do not have access to the kind of "free" public money represented by the stimulating flows of lottery money into the arts. Generally they cannot turn to business or the big charities such as the Imperial Cancer Research Fund except in utilitarian mode, proffering research that sooner or later will "work". But the case for public money for "blue skies" or theoretical work or

research that simply advances knowledge can only convincingly be put if they have done ground-work, political and opinion forming, in persuading public and parliamentarians that the large expense of keeping up with the leading edge in certain disciplines is a primary call on resources.

To be fair, the Royal Society did take the initiative; the resulting Public Understanding of Science programme has done good things—creating among other things some very effective science PRs. Science is well served by its cadre of specialist correspondents and popularisers who, generally speaking, cover the (simple science, complicated poli-

tics) Mir space station with as much aplomb as chaos theory. Indeed the idea that Britain is anti-science is hard to take seriously. Specific shortfalls in numbers of children coming forward to do physics A-level does not mean the end of the Enlightenment project as Newton knew it.

In that report on Britain's "brand identity", published yesterday by the Demos think-tank, much was rightly made of Britain's heritage of creativity, in science as in the arts. It is a tradition this government should foster, probably in excess of the £1.3bn already committed to the science budget. If Sir Ron Dearing's arithmetic is right, existing budgets need augmenting to the tune of £500m, a figure which in this season of (allegedly) comprehensive spending reviews ought not to be impossible to find. There is a quid pro quo from the science community. It is to tighten up and stop pretending that failure to fund all good projects amounts to intellectual vandalism. The fact is that science funding will have to get even more selective. The science community has to be prepared moreover to engage the public and their political representatives in the debate over British strengths, and weaknesses. If we are good at, say, (expensive) Antarctic science should we pretend to be as good at oceans or tectonics? Scientists find these discriminations hard to accept. The week of the BA

may be a bad time to start, showcasing as it is does all manner of cognitive wares. But at some point soon, if scientists are to succeed in their financial quest, the engaging and valued group who turn up at the BA's annual meeting will need to appreciate that their business is actually not the advancement of science generally, but the advancement of science in certain spheres where British endeavour and expenditure can add usefully to the global enterprise of expanding our knowledge of the physical universe.

## The limits of decorum

Eton John's reworking of his and Bernie Taupin's own song for the Princess of Wales's funeral service is one thing; but the prospect of a tribute album of specially composed material starts a quiver of unease. Among likely contributors to this Richard Branson project are Sir Paul McCartney and Phil Collins. These are decent people, with no doubt decent motives of raising money for charity. And the album will no doubt sell lots, and therefore help the Princess's favoured charities. But there is also a necessary point of restraint, and the showbiz world needs to be careful it does not cross the grey line.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time to think again about the monarchy

Sir: You feature today (8 September) both the need for the monarchy to update itself and the need for the UK to present a different image.

Our first step as the British people should be to wean ourselves off the monarchy, which was an appropriate institution a thousand years ago but makes no real sense today. The Royal Family's first step is to recognise that it is the lack of any real role which is pushing it into becoming the public's soap opera and which is destroying the Family itself.

If I were the Queen, I would be looking at the wreckage of my children's marriages and the fact that my eldest son has now been cast in the role of demon pantomime King. I would also be asking myself how my grandson can ever have a happy life with the impossible hopes being rested on him and the obvious comparisons which will be drawn between his actions and those of his "martyred, saintly" mother.

If we need a head of state, then let us do what Ireland does and elect one. This allows the public to choose someone they like and respect. The person so chosen has volunteered and knows that they only have to endure the intense media interest for a limited period.

LESLIE ELLIS

Alton, Hampshire

Sir: We demand the impossible from the human individuals who constitute our Royal Family. We ask them to be simultaneously paragons of behaviour, taste, morals and style, and to be one of ourselves, the people. Try as hard as they may, they cannot win.

I am glad I did not have the misfortune to be born into British royalty. I value my freedom too much. I can choose to pursue a career as a night-club bouncer, a university professor, a comedian, an engineer or a priest. All that stands in my way is lack of will or ability. I can choose my religion. I can cycle solo from Land's End to John O'Groats, stay in youth hostels, or camp and hack-pack. I can choose my friends and compete in the world fairly.

They cannot, even unfair advantage is a lack of freedom. If such restrictions were placed on any other group chosen by an accident of birth, there would be an outcry.

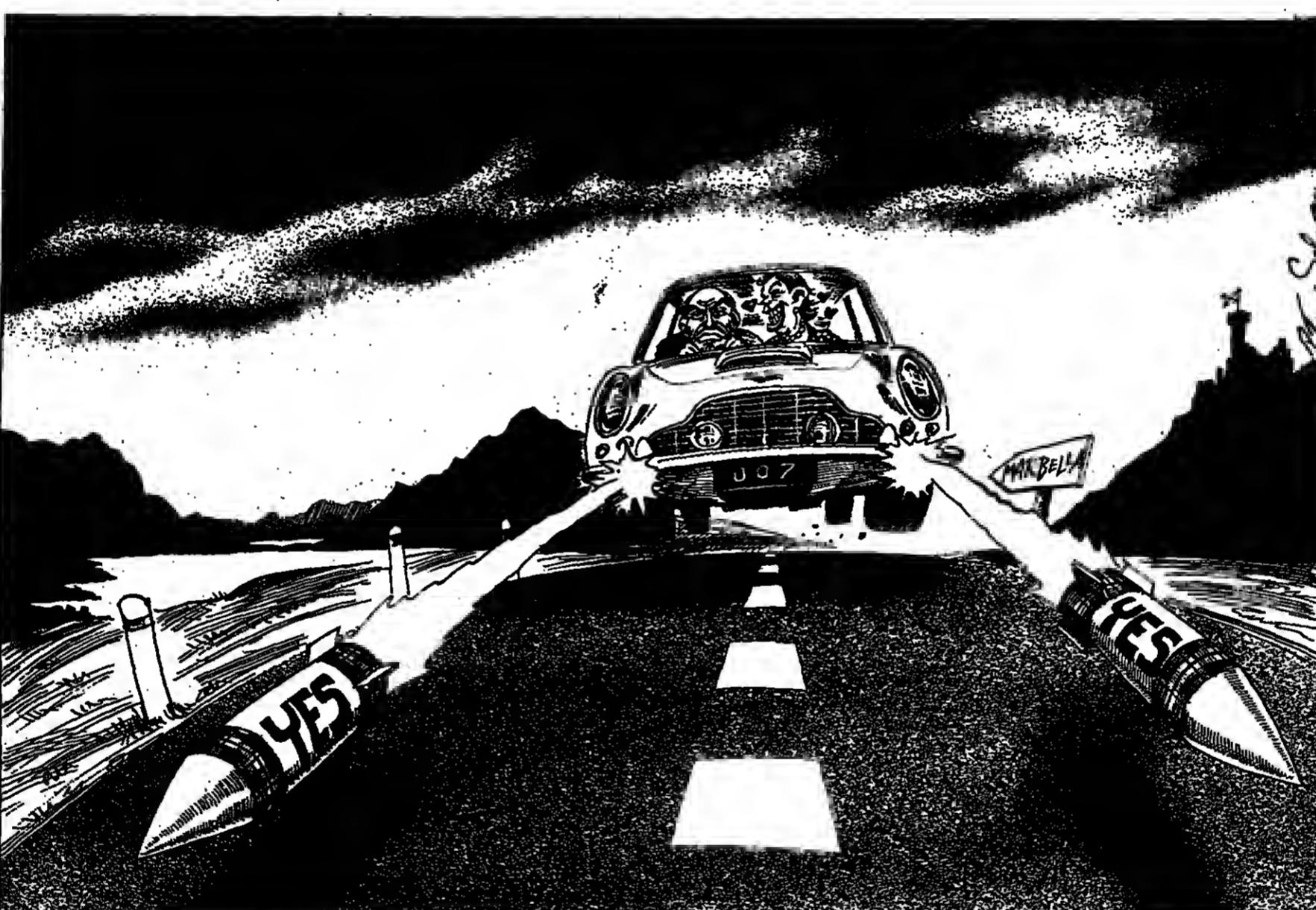
Let us give them sympathy and a break. Let us allow them to grieve in private, to make mistakes without being pilloried, to follow their own tastes, beliefs and inclinations, to bring up their children without repression. Above all, let us release them from their institutional prison by moving this country towards republicanism.

BRIAN DENVR

London N21

Sir: Polly Toynbee, in her article "The last chapter of the royal fairy tale" (4 September), has encapsulated why this nation must encapsulate towards a republic.

The Royal Family are at the pinnacle of the social élitism, privilege and class consciousness that so divides this country. All will not be put right overnight, but take away the head and the body will surely follow, allowing the creation of a truly democratic society where recognition and esteem comes from one's own efforts rather than dynastic birthright and patronage. It is deeply repugnant that the country which gave the world



modern parliamentary democracy should still espouse a hereditary head of state along with the non-elected Lords who are part of the historical anachronism. However flawed they may be, at least politicians can be voted in and out of office.

The new millennium is the opportunity for Charles with the final curtain on kings and queens in this country. They are an outmoded institution struggling continually to find a role for themselves that no longer exists. Our heritage as a nation need not pass with them.

A ALLEN  
Dorbury, Essex

Sir: I recently showed a foreign visitor the sights of Britain, and I realised how (with pride) I had said that a particular building, or family or institution was so many hundred years old; and how precious to our nation.

We wouldn't dream of turning Warwick Castle into a shopping mall; how could we consider vandalising our national family? Our Queen is the successor of all those colourful, bawdy, saucy, civil, mad or wise monarchs who gave interest and colour to our history, and whose names we adopt to describe our Jacobean, Edwardian, Elizabethan or Georgian treasures.

The character of a monarch is beside the point; the fact like she is the successor of William the Conqueror is very much the point.

MARJORIE HEMBURY

Leicester

Sir: A British republic would be headed by a superannuated politician and no one else. Our politicians would ensure that

### Media avoiding the blame

Sir: The manner in which the media have deflected blame from themselves to the Windsors is appalling. After Earl Spencer's eulogy on Saturday all emphasis was placed on his oblique and measured comments on the Royal Family, which contrasted so sharply with his scathing attacks on the media.

I'm disgusted by the disgraceful way in which the media and apparently much of the British public has turned on the Royal Family during one of their darkest hours. It's a very odd ritual to crucify the Windsors as some sort of sacrifice to commemorate Diana's death. If Britain wants to get rid of the monarchy, fine. Just

don't open the debate—which increasingly takes on the hysteria of a lynch mob—just after the mother of two of its members has been killed in an auto accident. The British public is either at the Queen's feet or at her throat.

BILL VIALL

London W14

Sir: Given the appropriate moment, when he has reached discerning adulthood, in the spirit of his compassionate mother—Long Live King William V!

KEVIN BERNISON

Teynham, Kent

GRAHAM R. WILLIAMS

Biddenden, Kent

I

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a lynch mob—just after the mother

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## essay

The little grey cells that shape modern economic policy have an unsuspected sympathy for the orderly world of sci-fi and detective novels. Diane Coyle probes the heart of the mystery

# Economics, but not as we know it

Cross a hard-boiled private eye pacing the mean streets of Los Angeles in the 1930s with the inexorable rationality of Mr Spock on the deck of the Starship Enterprise. Picture a world peopled by the joint imaginations of crime writer Walter Moseley and cyber-novelist William Gibson. This weird hybrid will give you an idea of the cultural development of many economists, and worse, of the intellectual context of much of economic policy.

Economics sometimes seems to dominate modern politics. The Budget is one of the main events in the political calendar. Economists are re-engineering the welfare state. We all bow at the altar of globalisation, at the whim of the gods of the financial markets.

Yet it is a little-known fact that many of the finest minds in the economics profession, those who shape the subject and form the next generation of policy-makers, are hooked on detective novels and science fiction.

These two genres between them capture the two essential aspects of how economists assume people behave, and therefore shape the world view that in turn underlies important public policies. For the towering skyscraper of economic theory rests on twin foundations, the assumption that people act to maximise their economic gains, and the assumption that they act logically.

First of all, people's actions are seen to be fully explained by self-interest. The world of economics is an amoral place. What we spend and save, whether we have a job, where we live, how long we stay at school, even who we marry, economics explains it all in terms of personal financial gain. It is a natural leap for academics whose idea of R and R is reading about the money-driven world of crime, whether seeking the motive in a country house murder or exploring the murky deeds of the mafia.

It would be hard to invent a more upright, presbyterian sort of figure than James Mirrlees,



juvenile winner of last year's Nobel Prize in economics. Yet asked about his interests, in the blizzard of questions he had to brave on the day of the news, he said, without hesitation, that he spent his spare time reading detective novels. Significantly, perhaps, he was awarded the prize for his work on explanations of economic behaviour when there is incomplete information.

Whether it is grainy classics such as the novels of Raymond Chandler, the country house mysteries of Agatha Christie or Margery Allingham, or modern authors like Sara Paretsky, the conventions of detective fiction hold a special charm for economists. For the world portrayed in these novels is, contrary to surface appearances, an extremely orderly one. People's behaviour has explanations – motives. Like homo economicus, the characters in crime novels do not do anything for no good reason. They act in order to further their own interest. The link is clearest in the many novels where the culprit turns out to be the person with the strong financial motive.

Even more important, the fact that crime novels always have a resolution affirms the economist's attachment to the notion of 'equilibrium'. This notion underpins the subject's theoretical foundations. If there is no equilibrium, economists cannot predict how economies will behave. It is the idea that the separate decisions made by individuals add up to a coherent whole, that supply and demand will match. The alternative is chaos and unpredictability.

Similarly, classic crime fiction spurns randomness. The denouement is equivalent to an economic equilibrium. Like economics, crime fiction is not so much a mirror of the real world as a very stylised representation of it.

The powerful influence of crime on economic thought reached its apotheosis with the publication a couple of years ago of a textbook on *The Economics of Organised Crime*. The mafia run a multinational business which differs from other

psychological studies have actually shown that economists students are more rational, or coldly logical if you like, than the population at large. Confronted with a series of problems, they far more often made the rational choice, the one that will maximise their financial gain rather than, say, making them most popular with their fellow students.

It is not known whether ferociously logical people are more likely than others to choose to study the subject, or whether absorbing its assumptions makes them more like the imaginary economic agents they study, but those cub economists go on to project their own behaviour onto everybody else.

If proof is needed that economists are different from the rest of us, consider this description by an earlier Nobel Laureate, William Sharpe, of how he came to choose his speciality. "At many points in my decision tree, fortune decreed that I should take the branch on this path rather than another. To get here, one must have the good luck to draw a great many favourable random numbers." Perhaps the professor was being consciously ironic, but, knowing many economists, I can report that this is how

He is up front about borrowing ideas from science fiction. Others hide their debt, or are perhaps unconscious of it. But many of the voguish, dystopian predictions about the prospect in

they really think. The voice of Mr Spock reverberates here.

Indeed, it is a voice that overlaps with that of some of the best-known fictional detectives.

Remember Sherlock Holmes's injunction that

when whatever is impossible has been eliminated, whatever remains, however improbable,

must be true. Or the impossibly orderly Hercule Poirot's emphasis on his grey cells. One can easily

imagine the little Belgian detective getting on

like a house on fire with the Vulcan starfleet officer.

They speak the same language. Characters like these represent the ideal of homo economicus.

However, it is from the hippest branch of science fiction, cyberpunk, that economics is drawing some of its fresh inspiration. Danny Quah is a London School of Economics professor who specialises in the economic implications of new information technologies. He turns to science fiction for creative thought about how the fully computerised world will look. High on his course reading lists are novels such as William Gibson's *Neuromancer*, Bruce Sterling's *Islands in the Net* and Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash*.

This is not just a lonely eccentricity. A recent special issue of *Forbes*, the US business magazine, on the silicon rather than steel based economy featured a short story by Stephenson. And *Wired* magazine is fascinated by what has become known as the "new economy", the post-industrial technological potential of countries like the US and UK. So is Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan, a well-known follower of the sci-fi writer and ultra-individualist Ayn Rand, author of *The Fountainhead*.

Professor Quah explains that this kind of science fiction takes current trends in technology and society and extrapolates them to or even beyond their logical conclusion. The cyberpunk world is an extreme vision of how the world's advanced economies might look in a few decades' time. It offers clues to researchers trying to think about future economic trends.

He is up front about borrowing ideas from science fiction. Others hide their debt, or are perhaps unconscious of it. But many of the voguish, dystopian predictions about the prospect in

a globalised world of social tensions, extremes of poverty and wealth, and cultural uniformity – the emergence of the "McWorld" feared by many academic opponents of globalisation – are direct descendants of this genre. Cyberspace represents the ultimate in globalisation.

For instance, the now-commonplace idea that multinationals are more powerful than governments? In fiction the idea dates back a decade.

In his 1988 novel, *Sterling* has one corporate executive overrule a colleague with scruples about bypassing the rule of international law: "A treaty is only a contract. You're talking like my grandmother. It's our world now... Why not cut out the middleman?" Somebody should tell the alarmists that this is still only fiction before they start pontificating about the dangerous new technology of beaming people up into space stations and down again elsewhere in the world.

Critics of economics would argue that it is a serious matter that the profession whose influence dominates public policy is awash with Trekkies and people who fantasise about being Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe. And economics certainly has plenty of enemies who accuse it of being out of touch with reality.

They are wrong, of course. Their typical recreational reading is a useful source of inspiration for economists. I must end with a confession. I trained as an economist. I devoured detective novels and have been a *Star Trek* fan since childhood. And I would argue that economics has a far more solid analytical foundation than any of the other social sciences precisely because of those weird assumptions about how people behave. They are not meant to be slavishly realistic, but to provide a powerful means of interpreting the world and making testable predictions. After all, every discipline draws strength from cultural sources, and uses metaphors in its interpretation of events. Science and crime fiction are a lot more fruitful than gritty social realism.

The economic model of human behaviour is of course obviously incomplete. Any parent, for example, could tell you that they value their children far more than the future income they might one day derive from them. Still, economics achieves surprisingly useful results by visualising people as characters in pulp fiction.

From left:  
Hercule Poirot,  
Mr Spock and  
Sherlock Holmes –  
all three have the  
sort of calculating  
minds that  
economists  
imagine  
are shared by  
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Sorry, bu

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## Little minds can have long memories

The oddest thing about *Mastermind*, the fight-hearted quiz programme which has just gone to the attic to gather dust, is also the oddest thing about *Round Britain Quiz* and *Brain of Britain* and *A Question of Sport* and *University Challenge* and all the others, and that is that the word "memory" is not used in any of their titles. This is not a new observation, but it is one worth making now and then to remind us that the people who appear on these programmes are not brains. They are not masterminds. They are not anything at all except people with good memories which have been force-fed full of facts with a single-mindedness which would be called cruel if done to geese. The titles of the programmes suggest that the contestants are being given some sort of creative challenge to actually do something imaginative, in a master-minded, brainy sort of way, but nothing of the sort ever happens. I don't watch much daytime television but I am dimly aware that there

are many programmes on television in daylight hours which ask people to do things like rearrange letters to make words, and that daytime TV audiences do sit around at home watching people in a studio rearranging letters to make words. This doesn't say much for the richness of life of people at home, but I will say this for the people in the studio: if you are given the letters G-B-E-I-R-V-A-E and are asked to rearrange them into a proper word (come on, readers, you have 30 seconds starting NOW!) and you do succeed in forming a word from those letters (come on readers, you have only 25 seconds left!), then you have made more intellectual effort than anyone who ever appeared on *Mastermind*, because contestants on *Mastermind* were never asked to think about anything. Only to remember.

This is odd, in a way, because there is something a little unBritish about an emphasis on memory. American crosswords depend entirely on general

knowledge, as far as I can make out. If the answer to an American clue is a seven-letter name of a river, like Potomac, then the clue will often be "River (7)". The same is true of our quick crossword-setters, but give a name like Potomac to a proper setter and he will say "Ah! The first two letters are the name of another river! And 'mac' is to do with rain... so the clue might be 'American river takes Italian river to raincoat'... no, that's not quite right... Ah, 'Potomac' is an anagram of

'camp too', so how about 'American river changes camp too'? ... No... And if the answer to a clue is the word "Verbiage" (which is the word I was thinking of above) then an American crossword will give the clue "Wordiness (8)" but a British clue will be something a bit more tricky like "Barge I've changed for hot air (8)". I may be wrong, but I don't think the Americans even have the equivalent of our penchant for intricate crossword clues. Heaven knows what they would make of a programme like Radio 4's *The News Quiz*, which sounds as if it is a quiz about the week's news but is anything but, being mainly a chance for the panelists to make jokes about the news, the chairman, each other and the leaders. The questions are merely the pretext for this. But as it would sound a bit simple-minded to ask questions such as, "What are the Scots going to be voting for next week?" or, "Why is everyone upset in Calcutta?" they wreath the questions in camouflage.

For instance, in the edition



Miles Kington

which went out on Friday 29 August, just before Princess Diana died (and which therefore contained the kind of jokes about her which people were making when she was alive, and which therefore was not repeated the following Monday), there was this question: "Who was harred for saying the same again?" It sounds as if it is all about drinking. Therefore it must be about something else, and, as Jeremy Hardy spotted, it was about people who had been penalised for plagiarising other people's poetry. But you have to be crossword-minded in a particularly British way to find this sort of thing sensible, and I fear we are the only country in the world which does so.

A reader writes: Well, if we are all so clever and crossword-minded, how do you explain the popularity of pub quizzes which are all about memory and nothing to do with cleverness?

Miles Kington writes: I was just coming to that.

Continued some other time, probably tomorrow.

Charlie Arthur  
The ten  
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# What happens if the Scots vote yes and no?

After the West Lothian question and the Gazz question, the Gordon Brown question: How come the Scots are apparently delighted to have a Scottish chancellor running their tax affairs from London who they aren't at all sure they want one doing the same thing in Edinburgh?

As referendum day creeps ever closer, so do the opinion poll findings on whether the voters want their own parliament to have tax-raising powers. About two-thirds of them want the thing established, apparently, but one poll at the weekend suggested only around 45 per cent want it to be able to change the basic rate of income tax.

So, the possibility of a yes-no vote is a real one. The Gordon Brown question must be answered. (For those who have forgotten, the West Lothian question is the one about how Scottish MPs get to vote on English matters when the English can't vote on Scottish ones. The Gazz question is about how an Englishman living in Scotland gets a say in the referendum while a Scot living in England doesn't.)

There is still every chance of a yes-no vote, of course – at the last count there were still more in that camp than any other. But it is time to ask why support for tax powers seems to be faltering.

The leaders of the Think Twice campaign will tell you that a tax-raising power would be bad for Scottish business; that it would drive companies south of the border. What they are really saying, though, is that these companies would be forced to follow the talented Scots who would leave in droves rather than pay more for a better road system or shorter hospital waiting lists.

A yes-no vote this week would be a sign that the Scottish people have embraced the romantic notion of devolution, they have not even begun to come to grips with the reality. After all, the tax-raising power on offer – up either way on the basic rate of income tax – is an extremely limited one. If it were levied in full, someone earning £15,000 per year would pay £17 per month extra in tax. Besides, the parliament could put taxes down rather than up if it chose to do so, and in any case it would probably not do anything to them at all before the next general election. Even this, it seems, could prove too much for the cautious Scots.

So, what will they get if they cannot bring themselves to risk paying a few pounds more each month for better public services? They will get a body which, in one crucial respect, has less power than the local council with which Tony Blair famously compared it. A Scottish parliament with no tax-raising powers would have to argue its case with Mr Brown if it wanted more money for schools. But if Strathclyde Council wanted more, it could simply put up the council tax.

In a further humiliation, the parliament would be able to hand down new tax-raising powers to local authorities while barred from making such charges itself. Thinking about a tourist tax? That will be ooc for the Highlands and Islands. Holes in the school

roofs in downtown Dumfries? How about a local rainproofing tax?

The taxless Scottish parliament would still have a number of significant powers, of course. It would have control of the health service, schools, housing, the environment, sport and agriculture. It would be responsible for both civil and criminal justice, and it would control economic development along with financial support to business and industry. But it would not have any control over its own purse-strings. The parliament's main job would be to receive a sum of money from Westminster each year and to decide how to distribute it. If more money was needed for housing, hospitals might have to suffer. If tougher anti-crime laws were on the agenda, money for new prisons might have to come from the education budget.

The flip side of these restrictions would be that the MSPs, or Members of the Scottish Parliament, would be left with a perfect scapegoat when their electors complained. Perfect, of course, because it is all too familiar: blame the English. If there isn't enough in the pot, it will be Westminster's fault. In fact, it will be Gordon Brown's fault. So the answer to the Gordon question, in short, is that the Scots won't be so keen on a London chancellor when they realise his decisions are binding their hands.

One yes-no campaigner said yesterday that if no vote on the tax question would leave behind it nothing more than a talking shop – and a talking shop with a £40m start-up price tag to boot. But it would be worse than that. It would quickly become a little movement against the Treasury, with Labour figures joining their opposition colleagues in condemning government spending decisions. This could only mean that Scotland's desire for a grown-up political system would be thwarted. Instead, it would be left with the "not my fault" playground rhetoric.

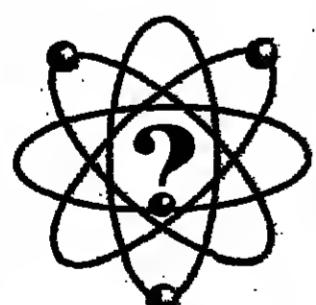
nest of resentment, with Labour figures joining their opposition colleagues in condemning government spending decisions. This could only mean that Scotland's desire for a grown-up political system would be thwarted. Instead, it would be left with the "not my fault" playground rhetoric that has characterised it for so many years. In response, the English would probably wonder aloud why their taxes continue to pay for public spending north of the border at 14 per cent above the UK average.

Once the deed is done and the parliament is up and running, there is no way back. If its limitations lead people to see it as impotent and resentful, there will be only one way to put things right: to go on towards greater independence. That, of course, could mean a belated decision to go for tax-raising powers, or it could mean hobbling on indefinitely with neither real power nor real respect.

All these arguments come to nothing, though, when compared with the central question that Scotland will answer on Thursday. Do the Scots really believe they can run their own affairs? All this boils down to is a simple issue of democracy. For years, people north of the border have been complaining of taxation without proper representation. Surely now the time has come for them to accept that they cannot have real representation without the possibility of taxation.

Fran Abrams

A no vote on the tax question would mean that Scotland's desire for a grown-up political system would be thwarted, and it would be left with 'not my fault' playground rhetoric



Charles Arthur

The media comforts the public with the suggestion that science proceeds in a realm of facts and certainty. Scientists know that it just ain't so

It seems like a simple question that modern science should be perfectly equipped to determine. We can measure ground ozone levels. We know what sorts of things trigger asthma. So what did the professor reply?

He adjusted his spectacles and said, "There's no simple answer." He explained that ground-level ozone (which can trigger asthma) is actually higher in the countryside, because the nitrogen oxides emitted by car exhausts destroy ozone near the point of emission (the city) but help to generate it further away (the countryside). But other aspects of city living may make it hazardous for asthma sufferers too.

"In fact, the Department of Health is very cautious about whether to tell people to stay indoors on days with high ozone levels," Professor Harrison explained. "Should asthmatics stay inside, where there might be house mites which could cause an attack?" trying to turn complex ideas like that into comprehensible, instructive soundbites for non-scientists leaves experienced journalists feeling as if they have spent an afternoon wrestling well-souped eels. It is not at all like dealing with politicians, who purposely use language to obscure their motives and aims, but not accomplishments. Nor does it resemble the treasure hunt of investigative journalism, the out-

pursuit of facts and events that someone has purposely kept hidden. Rather, it is a world where the city of scientific proof merges into a hinterland signposted "Fairly certain", whose border is marked "Don't know".

Professor Frank Close, of the Daresbury Laboratory in Oxfordshire, and one of the most articulate particle physicists in the country, describes the moment in 1967 when he found himself at that border. "The first day I started as a research student my professor said to me, 'Before today, everything in the textbooks was definite and known. After today, you'll never feel as happy with the work and the results you get. You will always feel it's not as true as the work of Pythagoras and Archimedes.'"

But what now feels strangest, Professor Close comments, is that "things that I have experienced over the years as uncertain results, to be confirmed, students today now read as definite in their textbooks." The process of science has turned the unknown into the indefinite, and then into the definite – the known.

That is what you tend not to hear about: the process by which the uncertain becomes the understood. If you like, it is a bias against misunderstanding, since people can so easily take scientific dispute to mean that the whole edifice of science is flawed. Derek Roberts, the out-

going president of the Association, said last week: "I don't think we want to portray debates in science. It could undermine public confidence in science." You will not find any sessions about scientific uncertainty at the BA this week; you have to recognise it in the way that answers are hedged with "evidence suggests" and "we're fairly certain that".

Yet with all that science can offer – from subatomic particles to the Big Bang – it still seems perplexing that first, we must represent it as offering certainities that it actually does not provide; and that with so much proven science, many people prefer "parascience" such as astrology, crystal healing or claims of alien abductions.

"People are looking for certainty," Professor Harrison noted. "But the press has a lot to answer for, especially at the lower end by peddling as near-certainities things that are actually very uncertain." The trouble is, humans love it. Our highly developed ability to reason – discerning cause and effect – means we will seek it even when it is not there. Superstitions emanate from that ancient need to control what we cannot understand. It is so deep-rooted that scientists spend years learning the procedures drawn up over centuries that will erase that fallacious seeking for certainty.

But what about the non-



One of the photographs shown last week in Perpignan, France, at an event celebrating 10 years of 'Independent' photojournalism

Brian Harris

# Pictures worth taking

by Andreas Whittam Smith

**N**o snappy pictures of celebrities can be seen at the ninth Festival of Photojournalism being held at Perpignan in south-west France, which ends on Sunday. This is a meeting place for true believers in photojournalism, for practitioners who situate themselves on the line that began with Fenton's pictures of the Crimean war and runs through Cartier-Bresson to Dos McCullin (who has an exhibition opening at the Barbican in London this week) and onwards. The young photographers who tour the catwalks in Perpignan looking for picture editors to whom they can show their work have been shooting in slums rather than in Mayfair, in Kabul rather than Paris; they have been taking pictures of tanks, not of champagne-driven limousines.

The qualities they need are the polar opposites of the skills of the paparazzi.

**The qualities photojournalists need – empathy, courage, trust – are the polar opposite of the skills of the paparazzi**

relationship is between the hunter and the hunted, there is no empathy in it.

The second quality on display at Perpignan is courage. The reporters and photographers – and TV camera operators – who cover the news from the world's trouble spots need to be more brave, in some ways, than the police, soldiers or rebels whom they find there. Their sole protection will be a flak jacket. They will probably have needed the say-so of the government to reach the point of conflict, yet they mustn't be seen as stooges,

embracing couple. In an unworldly way, the protesters seem to be saying to the bailiffs, hang on a moment while we kiss, then we'll complete our protest, then you can remove us. Please do things in the right order.

For photojournalists the issue is not whether a single, snatched picture could be worth £100,000, but whether they can earn any sort of living. The money available for their work has declined.

Perhaps the demand for paparazzi pictures will now suffer a setback, a "temporary correction" in the language of stock markets. But proper photojournalism, as I choose to call it, finds itself in a long bear market. Quite a lot of the work on show in Perpignan, the best there is, will never be published. Even the set of pictures which won the top

award. Many of his pictures succeed but one in particular is in my mind as I write. It shows a man crossing a street, with flood water up to his shoulders, smiling cheerfully, carrying a battered sewing machine, still dry, to safety.

It is not so much the paparazzi that threaten this sort of photojournalism, guilt by association, but a wider phenomenon of the late 20th century: dumbbogg

down. The growing appetite of newspapers and magazines for lifestyle features and celebrity coverage leaves less room for

upheaval. Many of his pictures succeed but one in particular is in my mind as I write. It shows a man crossing a street, with flood water up to his shoulders, smiling cheerfully, carrying a battered sewing machine, still dry, to safety.

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## obituaries / gazette

## Mobutu Sese Seko

Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire for 32 years, was black Africa's longest reigning head of state. Tall, imposing, never without his trademark leopard-skin hat and cane, he was the supreme example of a paramount chief. He embodied the state but was far removed from the economic disasters and political upheavals of his long-time sycophants, eventually angry subjects.

An unwavering advocate of personal advantage at the expense of the masses, his arrogance and excessive greed expressed the worst of Africa. Yet it was these signature traits which ensured not only his own survival, but that of Zaire. His politically astute and manipulative personality dominated the 200 different ethnic groups who live in this slab of jungle and savannah the size of Western Europe. Throughout most of his regime his rule, an exercise in political cynicism, was propped up by the United States, France and Belgium.

Mobutu's chief tool for maintaining supremacy over this Congrian heart of darkness was money. He embezzled the country's coffers to the point where his unverified fortune was thought to be upwards of \$6.3bn. Roughly equivalent to the national debt, Zaire's large reserves of copper, cobalt and diamonds should have made it one of the most prosperous African countries. Instead, because he regarded the nation's minerals as his personal property, it is ranked next to Haiti in terms of human deprivation.

Joseph-Désiré Mobutu grew up poor, the son of a cook for a colonial magistrate. His mother worked as a hotel maid. He was expelled from the missionary school he attended for disciplinary problems and in 1949 was conscripted into the Force Publique, the colonial Congolese army. As blacks could not become officers, he only achieved the rank of sergeant-major, working as a clerk in the accounts department. It was a grounding which was to serve him well in later years.

At 25 he left the army to visit Belgium and, back in Kinshasa, became editor of *L'Avenir* and then *Actualités Africaines*, the radical paper launched by the pro-Soviet Patrice Lumumba.

Thanks to his impeccable networking, at the age of 29 he was appointed army chief of staff by Lumumba, who was Prime Minister at independence from Belgium in 1960. Five years of anarchy and bloodshed ensued during which Lumumba was murdered. Mobutu survived unscathed having shrewdly judged that the Americans were interested in Zaire's copper and cobalt and were therefore worth cultivating.

The relationship was cemented in 1965 when he seized power in a CIA-backed coup. The CIA station-chief in Kinshasa, Lawrence Devlin, became his confidant and entree to Washington. From Richard Nixon through to Ronald Reagan, Mobutu was welcomed in the White House as a special friend.

In 1973 he confiscated European concerns without compensation and the economy was unparalleled even by an African yankstick. He owned a chateau in Belgium, houses in Brussels, Venice, Paris and Abidjan, a Spanish castle, a luxury yacht, a Portuguese ranch and Swiss chalet and the Villa del Mare on the Côte d'Azur which had a cellar created to store 2,500 vintage wines.

His conspicuous consumption was unparalleled even by an African yankstick. He owned a chateau in Belgium, houses in Brussels, Venice, Paris and Abidjan, a Spanish castle, a luxury yacht, a Portuguese ranch and Swiss chalet and the Villa del Mare on the Côte d'Azur which had a cellar created to store 2,500 vintage wines.

His continuing role as point-man for Western interests in Africa proved useful in 1977 and again the following year. Rebel invasions into the copper mining province of Shaba which left thousands dead, including over a hundred Europeans, were quelled with the assistance of the US, France, Belgium and Morocco.

During the first invasion, Mobutu despatched a contingent of pygmies to the front, but they proved useless as they could not see through the tall elephant grass to shoot their poisoned arrows. His gift for showmanship came to the fore after the second invasion when he personally piloted the foreign press to the front in an airforce C-130. He posed for photographs but made sure he was never pictured next to the massacred European civilians who lay piled dead in the notorious House of Death. Presenting the failed rebellions as a further example of Soviet expansionism, Mobutu then managed to secure nearly half the US aid budget for black Africa.

At the beginning of the 1970s, he launched *Mobutisme*, which was a thin disguise for a personality cult of stunning egocentricity. He gave ethnic names to the geography of Zaire and ordered Zaireans to follow suit under punishment of

a jail term if they failed to do so. Joseph-Désiré set the example by aggrandising his own name to Mobutu Sese Seko, "the all-powerful warrior who, because of endurance and an inflexible will to win, will go from conquest to conquest leaving fire in his wake". He collected other titles such as "The Messiah" and "The Redeemer" and was referred to as "He" with a capital letter – in government communications. He banned Western dress in favour of the *abacost* (*à bas le costume*), a Mao-style derivation of the pinstripe, to symbolise the break with colonialism. A public service announcement preceding the evening television news broadcast depicted him descending godlike from the clouds.

In 1996, while he was undergoing treatment for prostate cancer in Switzerland, the holocaust in neighbouring Rwanda spilled over into Zaire's eastern Kivu Province. Out of this emerged an old enemy of 30 years' standing, an ethnic Tutsi called Laurent Kabila, whose rebels moved into an administrative vacuum to seize a large swath of territory. Apparently abandoned by old Western allies, Mobutu used his chequebook to sign on white and black mercenaries.

When he returned to Kinshasa in December of that year, he was welcomed home by a dancing, singing crowd of more than 100,000. It was a measure of the man's majesty that, although he was so obviously the engineer of the decay and ruin around him, they greeted him as their saviour.

Mobutu fled before Kabila's tattered army in May this year, first to Kinshasa (the day before Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces marched in) and then from his Gradolite palace. Separated from the nation he embodied, his authority evaporated and he was shunned by the rest of the world, including France. After much negotiation, King Hassan of Morocco gave Mobutu and his 50-strong entourage asylum on compassionate grounds.

The nine children by his two wives were ferried to school in helicopters, taking off from a runway that was large enough to accommodate the wide-bodied jets he appropriated from the national airline to go abroad on shopping sprees.

On vacations in Europe and the US with an entourage of up to a hundred, he could spend at the rate of a million dollars a week.

It was in the marble halls of Gbadolite that he held court in baroque splendour – gold cutlery, Limoges china and, of course, his favourite Taittinger champagne – making sure that dignitaries such as the former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali were kept waiting for hours.

After the fall of the Berlin

Wall the Americans counselled early retirement, but their advice went unheeded. Instead, he gave a token nod to the wave of multi-party democracy sweeping the continent, allowing over 100 parties to form but making it clear their existence should not challenge his power.

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After the fall of the Berlin

Mary Anne Fitzgerald

*Joseph-Désiré Mobutu (Mobutu Sese Seko), politician; born Léopold, Belgian Congo 14 October 1920; President of Zaire 1965-97; twice married (nine children); died Rabat, Morocco 7 September 1997.*



Mobutu: a corrupt and vainglorious dictator who styled himself 'the all-powerful warrior who, because of endurance and an inflexible will to win, will go from conquest to conquest leaving fire in his wake'.

P. H. Newby was one of those rare writers (like C.P. Snow, Wallace Stevens and Roy Fuller) who managed to combine a demanding life as an administrator with a prolific output of creative work, and who, like them, rigorously kept apart the two strands.

Over 50 years, beginning in 1945, he published 21 novels, a book of short stories, two short fictions for children, critical work (including his British Council pamphlet *The Novel, 1945-50*, and much reviewing of fiction for the *Listener* in the late 1940s), and three books on Middle and Near Eastern history. Some of the novels were very highly praised. *Something to Answer* for winning the first Booker Prize in 1969.

For almost 30 years, 1949-78, he was employed by the BBC, beginning as a talks producer, going on to become successively Controller of the Third Programme and Radio Three, Director of Programmes (Radio), and finally Managing Director, BBC Radio. He once said that he devoted nine-tenths of his energy to the BBC, but made sure that he got away from London to his home in Garsington, Oxfordshire, as soon as that work was over, giving his evenings and weekends to his own writing.

Percy Howard Newby was born in 1918 in Crowborough, Sussex; he was amused to recall that the nursing home in which he was born had once been Captain Doyle's house. His father was a baker. He went to Hartley Castle Grammar School, Worcester, and would like to have gone on to university, but (he put it in his character Oliver Knight, in *A Step to Silence*), "it was plain that he lacked the few hundred pounds necessary to put him through a financial university, so it was a quiet natural for him to apply for admission to a training college which charged no more than £50 a year for both tuition and residence. It was little enough but all he could afford."



Newby: a fine writer who has never had the attention he deserves\*

Newby went to St Paul's College, Cheltenham. After a brief period schoolteaching, he was called up into the RAMC, served with the BEF in France, 1939-40, and was then sent to Egypt, where he was a corporal stretcher-bearer with the Eighth Army until just before El Alamein.

It made, he said, "a determinate impression": living in Cairo was like living in a human laboratory, in which there were

no inhibitions. Strangers asked who his parents were and how much he earned. Students asked him why he was not married, whether he was homosexual. (He said he was not homosexual and was engaged to a girl in England. He married in 1945.) The extravagances of Arabic-English, in which volatile feelings and a relish for rhetoric combine, fascinated him. The range of his Egyptian acquaintances, from members of the corrupt royal family to denizens of the pullulating slums, was wide. Everything was extreme, and he quickly revelled in the extremes.

Newby's first two novels, *Journey to the Interior* (1945) and *Agents and Witnesses* (1947), drew on these experiences, though both have "imaginary settings": the Sultanate of Ra'suka in the first, a Mediterranean island in the second. Both are interesting and skillful books, and they quickly established Newby as a novelist: he was given an Atlantic Award in 1946 and the Somerset Maugham Award in 1948. It was not until his ninth novel, *The Picnic at Sakkara* in 1955, that he managed fully to bring his observation of Egypt into focus, in a book which is Newby's most successful and memorable achievement.

In it, Edgar Perry, a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at Gizeh, is a decent but ingenuous man, drawn without quite knowing how into the ambit of one of his students, Muawiyah Khasla, who admires Perry with an often embarrassing devotion, and who at the same time becomes the agent of the Muslim Brotherhood engaged in killing him. Tragedy and farce perform an intricate minuet. Delicately, comically, Newby plots through this wonderful fiction, set in the Egypt of Farouk's monstrous regime, with a charm that is hypnotic.

By the time Newby published

John Raymond, the rather louche deputy literary editor of the *New Statesman* at the time, was not only an established novelist but had been for several years an established radio producer. On leaving Egypt in 1946, he had worked as a freelance writer for a few years. Then, in 1949, not so much for greater financial security but with the thought that he should enlarge his human contacts (being simply a writer can be a lonely trade) and learn new skills, he joined the BBC as a talks producer.

Newby

credited Geoffrey Grigson with initiating the move: "He'd read a novel I'd written, thought well of it, and dropped a note to 'Talks Department' with the consequence that I was invited to write and read at the microphone a short story. Which I did and this led to other broadcasting, book reviewing in the Home Service, for example, and then regular talks broadcasting on the Third Programme." On joining the staff of the BBC he was made "the short-story expert" in Talks Department.

By the time I first met him, in December 1954, Newby had extended his range beyond that.

He was responsible, among other things, for *First Reading*, a literary magazine of the air, which gave an airing to several novelists and poets who have since become well known; and also for *Literary Opinion* ("a monthly programme of comment and observation"). It was for *Literary Opinion*, that Newby invited me – then an undergraduate at Oxford – to contribute a brief talk on "The Young Writer in the University".

I wrote my stipulated 900 words, and arrived at Broadcast House in the usual student gurb of the day: tweed jacket with leather elbow patches, cavalry twill trousers. I was much chagrined to see that all three fellow speakers on the programme (among them

John Raymond, the rather louche deputy literary editor of the *New Statesman* at the time), as well as his hitherto unseen producer, Mr Newby, were dressed in almost identical dark suits.

Newby was short (shorter than me, which was a comfort), large-headed, and with something of the build of a well-turned-out jockey. He spoke quietly but firmly, and was kind in teaching me how to speak my script. (Years later, G.S. Fraser, an earlier novice, commented on the sort of advice he gave: "You must think in speech blocks, not in paragraphs or sentences", on how to modulate the voice, and how to address the microphone – as if it were an intimate friend not a public meeting.) The cup of tea afterwards, with my fellow speakers and Newby, marked my introduction to broadcasting, to a novelist I had not then read, and to a man who was, a few years later, to be one of my bosses.

By the time I began working as a trainee producer, late in 1954, Newby was about to become Controller of the Third Programme. In our professional dealings, I was always aware of two things: his quiet, precise defence of high standards, and his equally quiet, precise caution.

Some of my colleagues put too much emphasis on the second of these in Newby, as if he were some sort of inhuman litmus placed between anything new and the noisy condemnatory world out there beyond the microphone. I never found this so. I found he was a man with whom one could equally discuss heterodox things; and he could give way.

Newby's long years in charge of the Third Programme, and with the change of emphasis – of Radio Three, must have been draining. Knight, Whitehead's *The Third Programme: a literary history* (1989) and Humphrey Carpenter's his

into my hands in typescript

when I was working part-time editorially for André Deutsch. This was in 1994; and by then Newby's publishing fortunes had been through various vicissitudes. In turn, Cope (his first publisher), Faber & Faber, and then Hutchinson had dropped him. He seemed to be a faded forgotten name. But – not out of loyalty to his past work, or out of loyalty to him as my long-ago BBC boss – I recognised that this was a small masterpiece.

*Something About Women* is a wry, gentle, bemused, delightful novel, about affection, love, innocence, experience. By the time Newby's literary agent submitted it, Newby was tired and ill, not eager for face-to-face "hands-on" editing; but in fact the book required none of this, and our talks on the telephone and our correspondence were easy, firm and gentle as ever.

The book's publication in 1995 was not spectacular: it had some warm and intelligent reviews, but it did not sell. This disappointed me.

Here, as Graham Greene had said many years earlier, was "A fine writer who has never had the full recognition that he deserves". I can only hope that – as so often happens – his death will soon bring him fresh recognition. P. H. Newby was one of the best English novelists of the second half of the century.

Anthony Thwaite

*Percy Howard Newby, broadcasting administrator and novelist; born Crowborough, Sussex 25 June 1918; staff BBC 1949-78; Controller, Third Programme 1958-69; Radio Three 1969-71; Director of Programmes, radio 1971-75; Managing Director, BBC Radio 1975-78; CBE 1972; Chairman, English Stage Company 1978-84; married 1945 Joan Thompson (two daughters); died Garsington, Oxfordshire 6 September 1997.*

## Lectures

National Gallery: *Anthea Peppin, "Back to School (2): old masters and young pupils", 1pm*

Victoria and Albert Museum: *Diana Perry Aldrich, "The 16th-Century Interior", 2.30pm*

Tate Gallery: *Stuart Currie, "Innocence and Death: The Graham Cluley Collection", 1pm*

British Museum: *Barbara Brend, "Mughal Palace Forts", 1.15pm*

National Portrait Gallery: *Peter Sculthorpe, "John Angelus: James' leader of 19th-century Congregationalism", 1.10pm*

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, as Honorary Air Vice Marshal of RAF Air Training, opens the RAF Honorary Air Training Exchange 1 (HAT) at RAF Lyneham, Chippenham, Wiltshire; as member, the Merchant Navy House of Glasgow, visits the house and signs the Golden Book, West George Street, Glasgow; Patron, Victorian Society Scotland, Glasgow; VS 2000 Campaign, James' Hotel, Mitchell Theatre, Compton Green, Glasgow; and as Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, visits three new lighthouses (new construction), on the west coast of the Hebrides.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm.

## Deaths

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &amp; DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials, Weddings, anniversary services, Weddings, anniversary services, Memorials should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.20 a line VAT extra).

Sharpe, rugby footballer, 59; Mr Dave Stewart, rock singer and producer, 45; Dr the Hon Shirley Sunmills, former Labour MP, 66; Mr Chaim Topol, actor, 62; Miss Margaret Tyzack, actress, 66; Air Commodore Robert Wetherill, former Secretary, Rugby Football Union, 77.

Actor, 1873; James Evershed Agate, theatre critic, 1877; Arthur Freed, popular lyricist and producer, 1894; James Hilton, novelist, 1900; Cesare Pavese, poet and novelist,

# business & city

FINANCIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE YEAR

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## Internet giants join forces in \$1.2bn deal

David Usborne

New York

CompuServe, the pioneer of online services in the 1980s, is to be swallowed up by its glitzier nemesis of the 1990s, America Online, in a \$1.2bn (£758m) three-way deal also involving the long-distance telephone giant, WorldCom.

The transaction, confirmed yesterday, promises to redraw the contours of the online industry on both sides of the Atlantic. The concentration of power that it will afford America Online is likely, however, to draw the attention of fair competition regulators in Washington and Brussels.

It will especially be felt by online users in Europe, where CompuServe has managed to retain a lead as the most popular online service provider. Overnight, America Online, and its European partner, Bertelsmann AG, the German publishing house, will take virtual control of the market in Europe.

WorldCom, America's fourth-largest long-distance company, agreed to buy the 80 per cent stake held in CompuServe by the US accountancy behemoth, H&R Block, for \$1.2bn.

H&R Block had been trying to offload its CompuServe stake for almost a year.

Simultaneously, WorldCom

negotiated a parallel deal to

transfer the CompuServe operation and its base of 2.6 million customers to AOL. WorldCom will additionally pay \$175m in AOL, which, in return, is to transfer its network services subsidiary, called ANS Communications, to WorldCom.

In terms of the customer numbers alone, the deal is a disaster for AOL. For many years the trailblazer of the industry, CompuServe has in recent years watched in dismay as AOL has overtaken it as the dominant provider.

Latest figures put AOL's customer base at almost 9 million users compared with the relatively puny total of 2.6 million for CompuServe. Indeed, Com-

puServe had all but given up attempting to win new non-corporate customers in recent months as its break-up looked more and more inevitable.

AOL's success was achieved in part by projecting a younger, more savvy image to customers, while CompuServe was increasingly perceived as rusty. Earlier this year, however, AOL was stricken by an overload on its network and was forced to pay credits to some users who could not connect to it.

There is help in this deal for AOL's technical problems also. WorldCom has signed a contract to look after AOL's network requirements through its subsidiary, UUNet, for the com-

ing five years. UUNet will also provide AOL with 100,000 additional modems in the US to help forestall any further network traffic jams.

Thus, WorldCom, meanwhile, will considerably increase its credentials in the online industry. "We think this moves position WorldCom and UUNet at the forefront of the Internet world," said WorldCom vice chairman, John Sidgmore.

WorldCom, based in Mississippi, will retain CompuServe's significant base of corporate customers. "The strategy looks like just the right thing for this company [WorldCom]," said Scott Wright of Argus Research.

It is the potential for expansion abroad that is most tantalising for AOL. Currently, its AOL Europe service, which is a 50-50 joint venture with Bertelsmann, can count about 650,000 subscribers. Of CompuServe's total base of 2.6 million subscribers, about 850,000 are in Europe.

Bertelsmann said yesterday that it would pay AOL \$75m to retain its half share in the European business.

WorldCom, based in Mississippi, and AOL have reportedly agreed to invest another \$25m each to expand in Europe. With the CompuServe business in their pocket, that should become considerably easier.

Bertelsmann said the Com-

puServe brand would continue to exist in Europe, but would be focused on corporate customers while the effort to build consumer subscribers would be switched to AOL Europe.

AOL's nearest rival in the US will now be Bill Gates' Microsoft Network. So far, however, Microsoft has struggled to make significant inroads in the online provision business.

News of the deal was heartily welcomed by Wall Street, where shares in AOL were trading sharply higher after a delay yesterday morning.

Before the lunch hour, AOL

shares were selling at \$79 a share, up \$8.06 from Friday's closing price.

Under the terms of the deal, any increase in the price of WorldCom shares will translate into a larger take for owners of CompuServe stock. The agreement stipulates that WorldCom will pay a 0.40625 share of its stock for each CompuServe share.

CompuServe was trading lower yesterday on the news at \$13.25. Based on Friday closing prices, CompuServe stockholders will receive \$12.80 a share, according to H&R Block.

The deal, which was unanimously approved by the boards of WorldCom and H&R Block over the weekend, will leave the accounting firm with a 3 per cent holding in WorldCom.

## Fresh signals boost interest rate hopes

Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

The British economy is enjoying a happy mixture of steady growth in manufacturing, low inflation at the factory gate and a slowdown in spending on the high street from its overheated pace, according to the picture painted by new figures yesterday.

The latest batch of evidence confirmed the financial markets in the view that the Bank of England will see no need to increase interest rates again for some months, if at all. The pound fell to its lowest level since early June as a result, bringing further relief to exporters.

Although sterling's exchange rate is still 17 per cent higher

need to slow further to avoid inflationary pressures.

Official figures yesterday showed that manufacturing output has grown more than expected so far this year. It increased by 0.4 per cent in July to a level 1.6 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Earlier estimates for the level of output were revised up. The Office for National Statistics said the trend growth rate was around 2 per cent, up from the previous figure of 1 per cent.

Much of July's increase in manufacturing production was accounted for by a rebound in engineering, despite its heavy bias towards exports, and textiles.

Total industrial production was boosted even more by strong oil and energy production. It climbed 0.6 per cent in July, with its annual growth at 2.3 per cent.

"Manufacturing is not particularly weak. The strength of home demand is still outweighing the weakness of exports," said Adam Cole, an economist at James Capel.

Separate figures showed inflation at the factory gate is virtually non-existent. Prices charged by manufacturers climbed 0.1 per cent last month and were 1.4 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The closely watched "core" factory gate inflation measure edged up from 0.6 per cent to 0.7 per cent, but is still barely above the 30-year low of 0.5 per cent it reached last spring.

Prices paid by manufacturers for materials rose 0.4 per cent in August. They remained 7.8 per cent lower than a year earlier.

The third reassuring piece of evidence yesterday was a survey from the British Retail Consortium claiming that growth in the value of high street sales had slowed to its lowest for five months as a result of the recent mortgage rate increases.

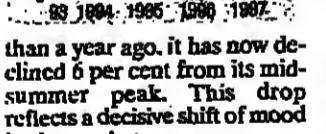
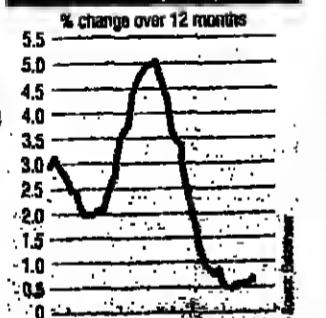
Annual growth in "like-for-like" sales, adjusted to take out the effect of increased floor space, slowed to 3.9 per cent from 5.2 per cent in July. Total sales growth slipped to 7.6 per cent from 8.5 per cent.

The BRC - whose survey does not track official retail sales figures from month to month - warned that holiday spending abroad in August might have dampened UK sales. But Andrew Higginson, chairman of its economics committee, said: "This month's weaker growth in sales supports what we have been saying all along - that there is no runaway boom on the high street."

The CBI's survey of retailing, published last week, also showed an August slowdown. The two surveys have helped calm fears about a consumer boom.

The pound ended at just over DM2.86 yesterday, while its index against a range of currencies fell 0.1 to 100.1.

He said the economy would



Highland piper accompanies ScottishPower on to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange



The strains of Highland pipes and the swirl of tartan kilts greeted traders at the opening bell on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday as ScottishPower opened a listing in search of fresh capital from US investors, writes David Usborne.

The Glasgow-based utility, with its multiple telecommunications, electricity, gas and water businesses, became the first Scottish company to offer shares on the New York exchange. The shares will be sold in the form of American Depository Receipts (ADRs).

Taking part in the brief ceremony, ScottishPower's chairman, Murray Stuart, said: 'Becoming the first Scottish company to trade in ordinary shares, via an ADR, on the New York market reflects our successful progression from a local electricity company to a multi-utility group.' About 8 per cent of the shares in the utility are already held in the US, mainly by institutional investors. The company said that through the listing it was hoping to attract smaller institutions as well as private US investors. In London, ScottishPower's shares finished the day 7.5p higher at 469p, against the market trend.

## Far East reaches 'turning point'

John Willcock

British and American fund managers are nervous about the short-term outlook for all equity markets and are piling into bonds and cash, while the currency panic that has swept Asia is now pricing into markets and presents a buying opportunity, according to Merrill Lynch.

Bijal Shah, global strategist at Merrill Lynch, says its latest global fund manager survey completed on 3 September showed that "the currency crisis which started in Thailand and which led to plunging equity markets among the Asian 'Tiger' economies has prompted the most extreme sell-off of equities since 1990."

He said it was even worse than the sell-off following the Mexican peso crisis in 1995, but added: "With this extreme reaction we may have come to a turning point. The Asian markets have priced in the worst possible news. They now represent a buying opportunity."

Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive, said he saw "no reason" for a recession in the country. "My judgement is there will be some slowing down in growth," he said. But he admitted that this could still have an effect on Blue Circle, given that cement demand runs at around double the rate

in the US an increasing number of managers were expecting an interest rate rise and slowing economic growth.

Merrill's monthly survey covered 259 institutions managing funds worth \$3.55 trillion (£3.5 billion). It is split into five regional surveys carried out between 29 August and 3 September.

The bearishness towards Asia had transmitted itself to other developing regions such as South America, said Mr Shah.

The investment bank said that with the exception of Japanese equities, UK man-

agers were on balance looking to cut their exposure to equity markets. Even towards Japan, buying interest had slumped, with buyers outnumbering sellers by just 9 per cent, the lowest since January.

Yet towards UK government bonds, buyers outnumbered sellers by 24 per cent, the most bullish view since December 1995.

This was in line with a drop in the number of respondents who expect inflation to rise through the coming year to 69 per cent, well down from last October's peak of 99 per cent.

On UK equities - where some 55 per cent of the institutions' funds are allocated - the survey found that sellers outnumbered buyers by 12 per cent, the same as in the last survey.

Separately, the slump in South-east Asian currencies did not bid big regional-wide intervention from the US, said the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Stanley Roth, yesterday.

"We're still watching and talking to other players including the international financial institutions, and we'll make a determination if necessary to some subsequent action that's required," he said.

Hamish McRae, page 21

Blue Circle Industries, the cement group, saw its shares fall 7.5p to 395p yesterday after failing to reassure investors about the future of its large Malaysian operations in the wake of recent economic upheavals there, writes Magnus Grimond.

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agers were on balance looking to cut their exposure to equity markets. Even towards Japan, buying interest had slumped, with buyers outnumbering sellers by just 9 per cent, the lowest since January.

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Hamish McRae, page 21

## Lord Young leads £6.6m investment in CDT electronics

Michael Harrison

Lord Young of Graffham, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and chairman of Cable & Wireless, is joining forces with the rock group Genesis and the property developer Godfrey Bradman to back a British technology that promises to revolutionise the world of consumer electronics.

The former Cabinet minister is leading a £6.6m investment in Cambridge Display Technology, a spin-off company from Cambridge University that has patented light-emitting polymer technology.

LEPs have the potential to replace existing liquid crystal and LED displays in a huge range of goods from computers to mobile telephones and could ultimately replace the cathode ray tube in television sets. The potential world-wide market is estimated at \$29bn (£18.3bn).

Lord Young, Mr Bradman and a handful of other investors have formed a new venture called Light Emitting Polymer Investments (LEPI) which will take a stake of just under 33 per cent in Cambridge Display Technology. Lord Young will also take over as CDT's chairman and represent the company overseas, particularly in the Asia Pacific region which is seen as one of the biggest growth markets for LEPs.

CDT was formed in 1992 by Cambridge University and Richard Friend, now Cavendish Professor of Physics at Cambridge, with £1.25m of seedcorn money. The rock group Genesis and its manager put in £400,000 and other investors included John Sculley, the former president of Apple, Herman Hauser, one of the founders of Acorn Computer, and Steve Kahng, president of Power Computing Technology.

Including the latest tranche

of funding, total investment in CDT stands at £10m - all in the form of equity. Cambridge University remains the biggest single shareholder. Under its chief executive Danny Chapman, who joined in 1996 from Siemens, CDT has raised £2m by selling licences to explain the technology to Philips Electronics, Hoechst of Germany and the

former Cabinet minister is leading a £6.6m investment in Cambridge Display Technology, a spin-off company from Cambridge University that has patented light-emitting polymer technology.

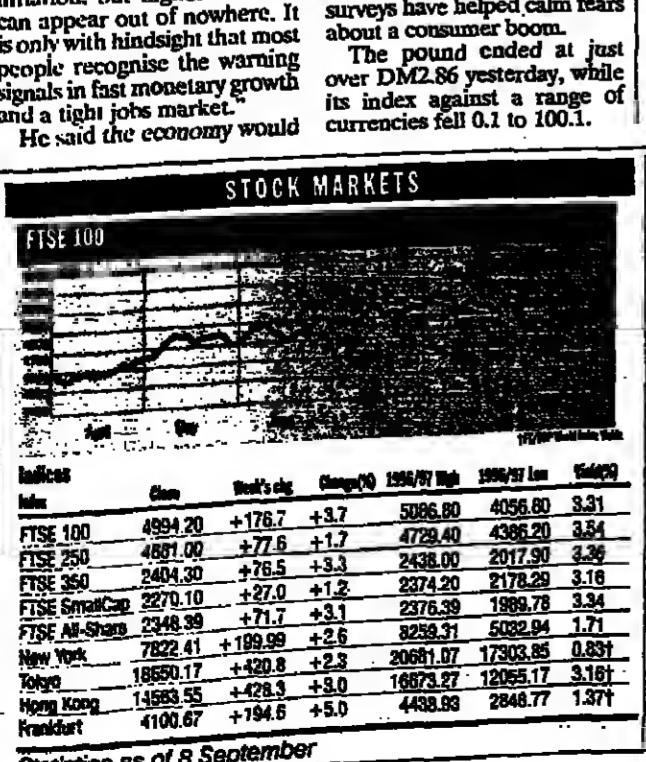
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CDT is also in talks with a large Japanese electronics company about licensing the LEP technology for use in a wider range of household products.

Unlike conventional LEDs, which are based on traditional semiconductor technology, LEPs can be fabricated on flexible plastic sheets and are claimed to be cheaper, thinner and lighter as well as being easier to read.

Including the latest tranche



## business

## Blue Circle's prospects questioned

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Blue Circle Industries, Britain's dominant cement producer, has been one of the better investments in a less-than-inspiring building materials sector.

Despite its heavy weighting towards two mature markets - the UK and US - the expectation has been that the cycle in both was on the upswing, while more exciting growth prospects could be provided by exposure to emerging markets, notably Chile and Malaysia. But yesterday's interim figures raised some question marks over future growth prospects.

The virtually flat stated profits of £117m for the six months to June hid a 22 per cent underlying advance, excluding the effects of a £25m charge for redundancies and write-offs associated with the long-term pay deal with UK employees earlier this year. However, the underlying picture is more mixed.

Most concern yesterday centred on Malaysia and the well-publicised concerns about its economy. Although Blue Circle was doing its best to reassure the City that there would be no recession there, the outlook remains cloudy, and in the meantime the operations in Malaysia and Singapore are hardly firing on all cylinders.

A 0.2 per cent drop in profits to £16.7m in the first half, while volumes leapt a quarter, was hardly impressive. BCI blamed the low-margin imports which it was forced to sell to meet demand and production problems. A new plant firing up next week could claw back as much as £10m of lost margin, but the economy needs to perform.

Meantime, the Chilean market continues to suffer ahead of a big capacity increase due to be brought on by a competitor over the next two years. Competition has forced prices down by up to 7 per cent, cutting profits by 12 per cent to £18m, but they remain more than 50 per cent above those in the US, suggesting there will be more pain to come.

Even stripping out a maiden £15.4m contribution from St Marys Cement of Canada, acquired in April, underlying growth in North America was a chunky 8 per cent. The market there continues to go like a train, but it is hard to see this pace being maintained for too much longer.

The high operational gearing of the UK cement business meant modest volume and price increases fed through to a handy 22 per cent jump in profits. But even if an upturn in the construction industry eventually feeds through to Blue Circle, imports will always act to trim some of the gains.

All of which helps explain why Blue Circle is keen to parade the £300m or more of firepower it has to buy new

growth in emerging markets such as the Far East and Latin America. Even with Panmure Gordon downgrading its full-year forecast to £355m, the shares, down 7.5p to 395p, stand on a forward p/e of 14, which looks a fair rating.

## Fairey suffers in electronics

Fairey, the specialist engineer, is a tough company to get to grips with. A whirlwind of acquisitions in the past year means that some 70 per cent of its business is now in specialist electronics - a shift from its traditional, lower-margin defence-related engineering. Unfortunately electronics have been a terrible investment.

Overcapacity and falling demand have rocked the semiconductor market. Added to crippling currency hits in certain areas of the market, electronic sector shares have underperformed the market by some 23 per cent in 12 months. Companies such as Eurotel, heavily exposed to the semiconductor market, and Bowthorpe, a big exporter to Europe, have suffered

## Blue Circle Industries: At a glance

Market value: £2.92bn, share price 385p (-7.5)

Trading record	Full year		Half year		
	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997
Turnover (£m)	1.78	1.77	1.78	1.78	1.78
Pre-tax profits (£m)	184	264	298	116	117
Earnings per share (p)	12.7	16.4	19.5	5.6	5.6
Dividends per share (p)	11.75	12.5	13.25	4.25	4.65

Operating profit	Share price	
	Pence	£m
By region, £m	600	60
Half year to 30 June 1996	400	40
Half year to 30 June 1997	300	30

repeated profit downgrades. Fairey has been dragged down too. Shares in the group have lagged the market by 33 per cent in 12 months.

Fairey probably does not deserve to be lumped in with the rest of the sector but, given recent acquisitions, measuring the health of its underlying businesses is not easy. The group has spent more than £200m on four deals since January 1996. That, along with foreign exchange factors, makes Fairey's headline numbers meaningless.

After £2.1m of currency losses in the half year to June, operating profits rose 45 per cent to £26m as underlying sales rose almost a third. The figures included the recently purchased Burnfield operation, but were without Fairey's largest acquisition to date - Fusion, the ultraviolet coatings group bought for £81m last August - and PMS of the US, bought last year for £49m.

John Poulter, Fairey's chief executive, puts organic sales growth in the core electronics business at 6 per cent. That is decent enough when compared with rivals. Moreover PMS, which lost sales after the semiconductor slump, should pick up now that market is recovering so, Fairey could hit 10 per cent organic sales growth rates by the year end.

With 60 per cent of its earnings in US dollars, Fairey is also less exposed to the pound than other companies and should see a smaller second-half hit.

Sue Cox at UBS forecasts £5.2m for the full year, putting Fairey's shares, unchanged at 367.5p, on a forward multiple of 16. That is a 5 per cent discount to the market which drops to 14 times next year for a 15 per cent discount.

Fairey deserves better. Good value.

## Sentiment keeps Brammer down

Brammer, the industrial services group which distributes parts for industry, has taken a beating this year along with much of UK manufacturing. After five years of steady growth, which has seen the shares climb steadily from 200p to nearly 700p, the stock has tumbled sharply in recent months. Yesterday on interim figures slightly ahead of expectations they rose 7.5p to 576p.

The main reason for recent weakness is sentiment, with investors fighting shy of industrial stocks which are exposed to the strength of sterling. A mild warning on profits earlier this year, prompted by a subdued UK manufacturing market, also knocked Brammer.

The fears may be overdone. On full-year forecasts of £30m, Brammer shares trade on an undemanding forward rating of 13. Yesterday's half-year figures showed the group had managed to make progress in spite of the hit on currency translation. Half-year profits were 10 per cent ahead at £1.4m, though the increase would have been 15 per cent without the hit from the pound.

Brammer's main business is distributing its range of 500,000 components to around 45,000 customers. The company's key strength is that although no single customer accounts for more than 1 per cent of sales, the company has managed to build significant market share in certain sectors. Distribution profits increased by 15 per cent, at constant exchange rates, though the European bearings market remains sluggish.

Livingstone, which rents out equipment such as industrial computers, did even better with a 19 per cent profit hike, even if Germany was weakened by the loss of a contract. But the second half has started better and Brammer feels the economy is strengthening.

Acquisitions are expected, although most of the deals in Brammer's sectors are with small, family-owned companies. Longer term the shares look reasonable value at these levels.

Profits flat at Fortnum as overseas visitors spend less



Fortnum & Mason (above), grocer to the well-heeled, yesterday announced a tiny £6,000 increase in annual profits to £2.23m for the year to 12 July. Garry Weston, chairman, said trading was affected by a fall in the number of overseas visitors and by reduced trading space on four floors at the store in Piccadilly, London.

He said difficulties were encountered during the complex underpinning and foundation stages of the building of the store extension, and the programme had been delayed. "This means we will not be able to trade the full extended ground floor this Christmas," he warned.

Mr Weston said the group's budgets, which were currently being met, called for an increase in underlying profit, but as they were based on the assumption that the UK economy remained buoyant during the Christmas trading period, and that the pound did not continue to strengthen, it was too early to estimate the outcome.

In the year under review, departments such as wines, hampers and cakes achieved growth above 10 per cent as sales to local customers remained buoyant throughout the year. Menswear and ladies' fashions also benefited from this buoyant trade.

However, Mr Weston said spending by overseas visitors fell by an estimated 20 per cent in the second half compared with the strong performance in the comparable period of 1996. As a result of the building work food hall selling space has been reduced by nearly 10 per cent since April.

Despite the flat profits performance, the dividend is being increased from 7.6p to 8.3p.

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## COMMENT

The proposed carve-up of CompuServe could be only the start of a larger shakeout and period of consolidation in a business which is generally failing to live up to early expectations

## Making money on the Internet is not so easy

**E**ven in an enterprise as hip, new and fashionable as the Internet, commercial reality has a nasty habit of coming home to roost. It is reckoned that by the turn of the Century, the Internet in all its various guises will have attracted some \$200bn of investment worldwide. The revenue earning powers of the Internet, however, will be lucky to have breached the \$50bn mark. What this means is that for the time being the worldwide web is more about hope and expectation than anything else, at least in commercial terms. All but the lucky few will continue to lose money on it into the indefinite future.

The proposed carve-up of CompuServe, then, could be only the start of a larger shakeout and period of consolidation in a business which is generally failing to live up to early expectations. This is not to belittle the power of the Internet to transform the world economy, by providing an alternative way of accessing the customer to a whole range of different industries, the Internet has already guaranteed its position in history. But it may take a lot longer to happen than everyone first thought. Certainly the optimistic business plans on which many Internet projects are based are now being widely challenged by bankers and other sources of capital.

Unless you are Microsoft, with money to burn, it is not easy to raise funds for the Internet these days. One day we'll all buy our newspapers, do our shopping and conduct our banking via the Internet and there will be pots of money to be made out of it. But not yet.

Which is why, when push comes to shove, the regulatory authorities on both sides of the Atlantic will probably agree to American Online's acquisition of CompuServe's retail subscriber base. On the face of it, the move gives AOL an effective monopoly, both in the US and Europe. But actually it doesn't really do this. As Internet users become more sophisticated and technologically literate, the market for the packaged, hand-holding, introductory service provided by the likes of CompuServe and AOL may in any case be on the wane. Certainly that is what AOL would find if it attempted to push up prices in the wake of this acquisition.

If even CompuServe cannot make any money out of these markets, what hope for the legion of smaller, specialist service-provider hopefuls? It seems quite likely we will see some of these either going out of business entirely or being merged with other organisations over the year ahead.

The web's failure thus far to generate revenue in sufficient quantity to cover its costs is actually only one of the constraints on the Internet's growth and power to transform the world. The other never to be underestimated constraint is that of established centres of commercial wealth and power. To think that they are going to roll over and let their *monopolies* be tickled by the new generation of Internet entrepreneurs is to underestimate the staying power of old wealth. These organisations will fight like alley cats to preserve their positions, and

they will attempt to stay the pace of change until they themselves have adjusted their costs and culture to harness its powers.

As the experience of CompuServe shows, creating new centres of wealth and power out of the Internet may not be as easy as it looked.

### Rail competition faces tough barriers

**W**hen Connex South Central can run 350 rail services a week with complete impunity, then surely the day when the privatised train operators start to face competition for their passengers cannot arrive a moment too soon.

The Rail Regulator, John Swift QC, may be thinking this as he prepares to issue a consultation paper next week asking for views on how quickly the 25 train operating companies created through privatisation should start to lose their monopolies. When the previous government was *tightening up* the industry for sale the last thing it could afford was to allow competition on the same routes from day one, so each franchisee received a period of exclusivity.

However, all that is due to change in 1999 when open access, to use the dreadful jargon, arrives in a limited way. In theory, that will allow up to 20 per cent of rail services in each franchise area to be thrown open to competition with rival operators using the

same track to offer competing services. As things stand, there is already a modest degree of competition on the railways – partly by dint of the way the franchise map was drawn up. Passengers have a choice of three services from central London to Gatwick, there are two competing services to Birmingham and there is even limited competition for passengers travelling to Scotland between InterCity West Coast and Great North Eastern.

In practice, the amount of extra competition produced by open access is likely to be small. If Connex South Central could not make a go of its new Metro service into the capital in an area not well served by the Tube and with £75m of subsidies a year, then who else is going to be tempted to have a go?

There will be some areas of the network where operators will be tempted to cherry pick. Richard Branson's Virgin, which already operates the west coast line, may try its hand at running services up the east coast, for instance, not least because it will have a shiny new £750m fleet of tilting trains at its disposal. But others will be less keen on competition. There are two barriers. One is practical – there are only so many trains that can use the same piece of track before disaster overtakes the network. The other is political. The new Government is more interested in promoting an integrated transport system answerable to passengers' needs than encouraging competition willy nilly. The last thing it wants is a repetition of the experience that befell the bus industry with predatory pricing and operators leapfrogging one another's services in gain a competitive edge.

The simplest way to increase rail services levels on the operators. It was never satisfactory that they got away without even having to operate existing timetables when the franchises were let. Unfortunately, the only way to make this palatable would be either to extend the franchises or pump more subsidies into the network. All in all a tricky one for the rail regulator and his political overlord John Prescott.

### Confusion on the Stock Exchange

**A**ny investors hoping to flog their British Energy shares yesterday morning were likely to be sorely disappointed. In an extraordinary cock-up, trading had to be suspended for well over two hours as the Stock Exchange investigated why some market makers were still quoting partly paid share prices when the stock had gone fully paid. A storm in a teacup maybe, but nobody likes to see markets confused in this way, for however short a period. Given that ensuring an orderly market is one of the few responsibilities left on the shoulders of the Stock Exchange these days, it seems astonishing that its remainder of the transition had somehow not got through to market makers.

For years, customers have packed their groceries themselves. Now some stores are considering going full circle, reports Nigel Cope

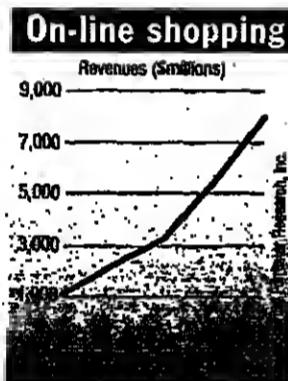
## Tesco prepares to reintroduce the delivery boy

Tesco is set to announce an expansion of its home delivery operation in the next few weeks in a move which will bring the concept of electronic shopping and the virtual store one step closer.

Tesco Direct offers customers the choice of placing grocery orders via the telephone, fax or through the Internet. The orders are then delivered to their homes for a charge of £5.

The service is already operating in five areas, including Osterley in West London, Leeds and Sutton, Surrey. It is thought that Tesco is finalising plans to develop the service further though the supermarket group yesterday declined to give further details ahead of its results next week.

Tesco's move is one of several home delivery initiatives being aggressively rolled out. Iceland last week announced plans to offer its home delivery service nationwide backed by a fleet of 850 vans. Burton, the fashion retailer, started selling in Evans brand via the Internet at the weekend. Its other formats, including Dorothy Perkins,



Debenhams, Principles and Racing Green, will start trading electronically over the next two months.

Analysts are divided on the significance of these developments. Andersen Consulting estimates that up to 20 per cent of supermarket shopping could be conducted via non-store electronic channels by 2000. But Clive Vaughan of Verdict Research is more sceptical: "I think there is a genuine desire among retailers to check out these new channels. But I don't believe they will go mass mar-

ket without companies investing sizeable sums in them. Are they really going to do that and jeopardise their store portfolio? I think the idea is that they want to control it and keep what little business there is in their own hands."

Of the major supermarkets Tesco is already the most advanced in home delivery. It has been running Tesco Direct for nearly a year with an electronic store that offers 20,000 lines. Half of its customers order by phone and fax with the remainder using the Internet site.

Sainsbury's is being more cautious but is also looking to extend its trials. It has been running an Order and Collect service in Watford and Solihull. Under this service customers place their orders via phone or fax but must come to the supermarket to collect the shopping. The charge is £2.

Sainsbury's also runs an off-store shopping service at Hewlett Packard which it is looking to extend later this year. Staff at the HP office in Bracknell order their groceries through the office computer. The goods are



Back to the future: Tesco is at the forefront of moves to reintroduce home delivery for groceries

then delivered to the car park at specific times in the afternoon from the local branch of Sainsbury's in Calcutta.

Safeway has been running a service called Collect and Go in two stores since July. This is similar to Sainsbury's Cal and Collect scheme though it only offers dry groceries, not chilled or frozen items. Steve Webb, Safeway's marketing director, says: "We are not wholly certain what customers want yet. We are seeing if there is sufficient

interest and the results have been encouraging so far."

The central conundrum for the supermarkets and other retailers is that if the electronic shopping home delivery does gain mass market acceptance, it will take customers out of the stores, leaving the retailers with a redundant store portfolio.

The initial costs are very high for an uncertain reward. Iceland is investing £12m in its home delivery operation and admits it will not break even this

year. Given that Iceland is not charging for the service it is relying on a significant and unspecified increase in sales volumes to make the service pay for itself.

Even Tesco's £5 charge would not cover its costs, according to Verdict's Mr Vaughan. His view is that customers in lower blocks or in homes that are off the beaten track would be far more expensive to service.

Many retail analysts feel that the home delivery operations

being tested by retailers are more defensive than strategic. They feel retailers are protecting themselves against potential new entrants who may have lower cost bases.

It is a battle which the high street banks also face. With their expensive branch networks, the major clearing banks will struggle to compete with Internet banking operations which have lower costs than telephone-based providers such as First Direct.

For retailers it is ironic that

after decades of encouraging customers to do more of the work in the form of self-service, packing and even self-scanning, the market appears to be going full circle – back to the delivery boy.

Iceland's nationwide launch was criticised by many analysts who said it was too expensive to operate and too easily copied to be successful. But it would only take one of the big four supermarket operators to break ranks and the rest would follow.

### IN BRIEF

#### Energis earns £30m of deals from BBC

Energis, the long-distance phone business being floated by its owner, National Grid, announced two deals worth around £30m to supply communications services to the BBC. They come on top of a landmark £100m, 10-year contract secured by Energis in 1995 to link up the BBC's radio and TV sites across the UK. The first of the new contracts will provide digital sound and picture links between the BBC's London base at Television Centre and regional headquarters in Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast. The second deal will give journalists faster computer links to a digital newsgathering system. Mike Grabiner, Energis chief executive, said the 10-year contracts would strengthen the company's foothold in the broadcasting and media industries.

#### US bank buys London Global Securities

London Global Securities, the stock lending company, has been bought by Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the Wall Street investment bank. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, although the price is understood to be around £50m. Michael Hiard, managing director, will continue to run London Global, which has a total staff of 45, including directors.

#### Traffic picks up in Eurotunnel

Eurotunnel said the encouraging increase in traffic achieved in July had continued in August, following the reopening of all shuttle services in June and earlier difficulties due to the tunnel repair works. Tourist traffic on Le Shuttle in August was up 25 per cent from July. The number of tourist vehicles including motor-cycles, cars, trailers and campervans on Le Shuttle in August was 284,437 compared with 304,032 in August 1996. The company said 6,150 coaches travelled on Le Shuttle in August, compared with 6,301 a year earlier. On Le Shuttle in August, compared with 46,045 in August 1996, Eurostar carried 681,663 passengers in August, compared with 566,247 passengers a year earlier.

#### Forth Ports expects improved results

Forth Ports were expected to move ahead on the back of additional business generated at its London Tilbury terminal, the Scottish ports group said as it reported a 8 per cent increase in profit before tax to £11m on turnover up 9 per cent to £44.8m for the six months to 30 June. A company spokesman said: "The major new facilities at Tilbury, which are now coming onstream, are beginning to generate additional business. The increase in Tilbury container activity and the expected further increase in steel pipe traffic at Leith should result in an improved performance in the second half of the year."

#### Johnston Press sells bookbinding division

Johnston Press has disposed of its bookbinding division to a UK-based management buyout. The business comprises Riddle & Wilson Limited with its binderies in Falkirk and Huddersfield, Cedric Chivers Limited in Bristol, Dunn & Wilson (Ireland) and Dunn & Wilson (Australia).

## British Energy suspended over price confusion

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

Trading in British Energy shares was halted for more than two hours yesterday as confusion surrounded whether dealers should quote the price including the second privatisation instalment. In what the Stock Exchange said was a very rare event, the nuclear generator's shares were suspended at 8.44am and did not reappear on dealing screens until after 11am. Separately yesterday it emerged that the company did not expect to find a new chief executive until the end of this year to fill the post left after the surprise resignation in June of Robert Hawley. The departure came after the board told Mr Hawley he would not succeed John Robb as chairman when his contract expired in 1999. The company said it had not

found a candidate for the job and, until searches proved successful, Mr Robb would act as executive chairman.

The trading glitch yesterday came when some market-makers, who match buyers with sellers, were apparently unaware that the company's share price had to be quoted as fully paid from yesterday, including the second instalment of 98p a share.

The shares had opened more than 44 per cent higher than Friday's 208.5p close, at 301p, to reflect the fully paid price.

British Energy shares were offered to investors at 205p in July 1996, in a controversial privatisation which raised £1.4bn for the Treasury. Small shareholders were given a 5p discount in two instalments, the first of 10p, with the balance of 98p due on 16 September.

The Stock Exchange said it



John Robb: stepping in until chief executive post is filled

had told dealers of the impending change in July, with a follow-up announcement on its news service. A spokesman

said the Exchange could not explain why some market-makers were yesterday morning still quoting partly paid prices.

The share price had to be quoted as fully paid from yesterday because for technical reasons investors who sold their shares before 16 September would still need to pay the second instalment. Until last Friday

shareholders could sell the stock and pass responsibility for the second payment to the buyer.

The Stock Exchange insisted nobody was to blame for the confusion and added that only seven trades had apparently been made before the suspension.

British Energy said the mass

was "obviously to do with administration at the Stock Exchange". The shares closed at 309p, equivalent to a rise of 2.5p on a like-for-like basis.

Analysts said the government

needed to raise funds to help reduce its borrowings.

On Friday it was confirmed that Air France will not be privatised, prompting Christian Blaize, the airline's chairman, to hand in his resignation.

## France to sell 20% of Telecom

**Chris Godsmark**

The French government yesterday reactivated the sale of a stake in France Telecom, the huge state-owned phone company, in a move which could raise more than FFr30bn (£9.4bn) and would cement closer ties with the group's partner, Deutsche Telekom.

He said ministers also wanted Deutsche Telekom to own a further 7.5 per cent stake in the company after the sale. France Telecom would buy a similar

sized stake in the German carrier. The two phone groups already collaborate in the Global One alliance with Sprint, the US long-distance operator.

In addition, France Telecom's employees would own around 3 per cent, bringing the total stake to more than 30 per cent. Mr Strauss-Kahn insisted the sale was not the same as a privatisation. "This is an opening of the capital. Privatisation means selling more than 50 per cent."

The syndicate of banks and brokers created under the previous plans, which could have seen up to 49 per cent of France Telecom sold, was still in place in the hope that the sale would ultimately receive the go-ahead.

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# BHB steps up the hunt for owners

One of the more memorable moments in the relatively short history of racehorse ownership by racing clubs with hundreds of members came at Cheltenham in the early 1990s. Music, owned by the White Horse Racing Club, had just won a Grade One hurdle race at the epicentre of National Hunt, and dozen upon dozen of the very ordinary people who each owned a tiny share of him burst into the winners' enclosure in rousing celebration.

To one side, a racecourse official in a bowler hat studied the scene in silent but undisguised horror. Good God, you could see him thinking. The heathens have scaled the walls. First the Empire, now this.

If the gentleman in question

has not yet retired to Bournemouth or Worthing, the latest initiative from the British Horseracing Board's ownership marketing group is unlikely to improve his mood. 'Tips To Build a Dream On' is a 20-minute video, produced at a cost of £25,000, which aims to explain the costs and benefits of owning horses to anyone who likes the idea but has always been afraid to ask.

One tape will be sent free of charge to every owner and bloodstock agent in the country, with more copies available from the BHB at £5 each, while a two-minute taster with a catchy sound-track will be played on closed-circuit television at racecourses throughout Britain.

Momentum is growing behind the campaign to establish a new racecourse on the Welsh coast at Pembrey. It would rival Yarmouth as Britain's busiest seaside track with summer fixture as its mainstay, writes Chris Corrigan.

The Pembrey site is close to a beach with seven miles of sands backed by dunes overlooking Carmarthen Bay. A short distance to the west are Pendine Sands, where 51 years ago a land speed record was set. The race is on for the proposed track to be developed in time for the year 2,000. This depends largely on discussions today by members of the British Horseracing Board, who will be considering an application for

**Greg Wood** on the latest attempt to lure more people in pursuit of a dream

The video is arguably worth £5 just for the brief clip of Ian Balding, whose normal manner is somewhere between broad and asleep, going berserk.

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Wuxi Venture  
(Leicester 4.15)  
NB: Forty Love  
(Lingfield 3.30)

as one of his horses gets up on the line, but those with a serious interest in ownership will also find much to consider.

There is no getting away

from the fact that owning your own horse is likely to cost between £12,000 and £15,000 each year – and this is money which should be seen as for entertainment, not investment – but syndicates have now opened up a route into ownership for those with rather less disposable income.

The claim in the film by Richard Phillips, a trainer, that it is now "affordable to literally every person in Britain with a job" is as laughable as one of Phillips's famous racing imitations. For a group of perhaps 20 people with reasonable incomes, though, a meaningful experience of ownership is more achievable than they might think, while the promotional opportunities of corporate ownership are succinctly set out by Mark Johnston.

For Jim Rowan, chairman of the BHB's ownership marketing group, the video is a strong response to the frequent question by trainers, "what is the BHB doing for me?"

The task of attracting owners to the sport is never-ending, with between 15 and 30 per cent of all owners giving up the pursuit of their personal dream each year, while many trainers are worrying dependence either on one or two owners, or a collection whose fortunes are tied to such imponderables as the movement of the stock market.

"It is a very tough job to be a racehorse trainer," Furlong says. "You have to spend a great deal of time on marketing to keep your customer base intact, and we will do anything we can to help them do that."

Upcoming projects include, for the really serious would-be owner, a two-day seminar at Newmarket on 29 and 30 September to coincide with the Houghton meeting, which will include stable visits and a trip to the sales, at a cost of £225 (plus VAT) per person, which is refundable in full to anyone who becomes involved in ownership within 12 months.

Those who still need a little more persuading can order their video on 01753 897211.

## Sands of time running for new race track

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The race is on for the proposed track to be developed in time for the year 2,000. This depends largely on discussions today by members of the British Horseracing Board, who will be considering an application for

the new course to stage 20 fixtures in three years time.

South Wales businessman Mel Davies, a long-standing owner and sponsor, and Jack Bennett, former manager of Worcester racecourse, are behind the plan. Together they have invested £20,000 on the preparation of a feasibility study in Wales. It's about time, Welsh racehorse owners saw their horses running in Wales," added Davies, who, during a 30-year involvement in racing, experienced top-level success as an owner with Barnbrook Again, twice Champion Two-mile chaser.

The local authority and Tourist Board have offered financial support but Davies fears he faces an uphill task convincing a BHB board, whose

membership may favour the established tracks.

"If the BHB ignores vested interests we will get what we want. But I have my doubts. I suspect some people are lobbying against us. If we fail, they will want to know why. We may lose the battle on Tuesday, but we will win the war."

Sirrell Griffiths, who saddled Norton's Coin to win the 1990 Gold Cup at Cheltenham on 100-1, claims his small string at nearby Nantgarw.

Last night, Griffiths said: "We would adore a course on our own doorstep. There are large numbers of racing people in this part of Wales and I don't see why people wouldn't travel to a new track here."

Godolphin plan to run Haltara as well as Stowaway, while Sheikh Mohammed has also

progressed racing's governance to provide to the necessary fixtures. "Our case is unquestionable," Davies argues. "Wales has the highest incidence of betting shops outside London, but only two courses. Bangor primarily serves English racing, while Chepstow is closer to Bristol than Cardiff."

The Welsh public is being disenfranchised while the money its punters generate for the Levy is helping to pay for nine racecourses in Yorkshire.

"We need to stimulate interest in Wales. It's about time, Welsh racehorse owners saw their horses running in Wales," added Davies, who, during a 30-year involvement in racing, experienced top-level success as an owner with Barnbrook Again, twice Champion Two-mile chaser.

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## sport

# Rusedski moves to new plane

John Roberts reflects on a superb fortnight in New York for Britain's No 1

Greg Rusedski travelled by Concorde from the final of the United States Open yesterday to participate in the Samsung Open at the West Hants Club, Bournemouth. Anything slower would have been akin to returning the fastest server in the world on the Spirit of St Louis.

Rusedski's spirits were as high as could be expected considering how much he had accomplished without laying his hands on the coveted prize. "It would be nice to have a nice welcome, but I would have been happier if I was bringing the cup home," he said.

London has been home to Rusedski, who was born and raised in Canada, since he delivered his British passport to the Lawn Tennis Association in 1995. He seems to become more British by the minute, if not in terms of his tennis, which is far too potent to be typical.

The unseeded Rusedski, frequently serving at above 140 mph, hit one delivery timed at 143 mph – the fastest recorded on the professional tour – against Pat Rafter during the concluding set of Sunday's final. Not even that discouraged the athletic Australian No 13 seed.

"Pretty bloody big," Rafter said. "I'm not trying to compete with him with that. My arm would fall off. I thought: 'Oh, no, he's got one record, he's going to take another one.' I tried not to let the second one happen." Rafter succeeded, maintaining his impressive consistency to prevail, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

Mighty serves are only part of Rusedski's repertoire nowadays, a point underlined throughout the tournament. Asked about the 143 mph during his interview, he said: "I'm sure that will be broken as well. I'd rather come here and had no record and said I won the match."

Rusedski has worked hard on his groundstrokes since hiring the American Brian Teacher as his coach 16 months ago. While Rusedski does not have the fluid style of Rafter's attacking game, he shows signs of becoming a more complete player than previously imagined.

As Teacher said: "He's improving not only front of everybody

else's eyes, too. That's a beautiful thing as far as a coach is concerned."

Rusedski, who had not won a match on his three previous visits to the US Open, became Britain's first representative in the men's singles final since Fred Perry defeated Don Budge in 1936.

"I didn't feel the weight of history," Rusedski said. "I just went out there and enjoyed myself. I think Pat did the same thing. It was a tremendous feeling to play in the US Open. But I'd rather be walking on Centre Court at Wimbledon for the final. That's always been my dream. Maybe I'll do that."

For the moment, however, he will endeavour to combat any sense of anti-climax while trying to settle his feet on the slow clay courts of Bournemouth. "I'm going to try my best out there," he said. "I made an obligation to play the tournament. Hopefully the British public will get behind me. They can get me through the first round."

Rafter, having rocketed the stock of Australian tennis, will take a few days off before preparing for the Davis Cup semi-final against the United States in Washington later in the month.

A decade ago, when Rafter was 14, he watched on television as Pat Cash clambered up to the players' guest box after winning the Wimbledon title. He imagined doing something similar himself one day, and could not resist scaling the perimeter wall in the Arthur Ashe Stadium. "Yeah, Cashy did it. I thought it was pretty cool," Rafter said.

Once once before had Rafter had cause to celebrate a victory, after winning on grass in Manchester in 1994. He had suffered defeat in five previous finals this year.

Injuries have contributed to Rafter's slow germination as a player of the highest quality, and problems with a wrist last year severely damaged his morale. He can trace his path to Sunday's title back to Australia's first round Davis Cup tie against France, the holders, in February.

Trailing by two sets to Cedric Pioline, Rafter made a remarkable recovery and turned the tie in Australia's favour. The captain, John Newcombe, recalls motivating Rafter during changes by telling him he was waging a "war of attrition".

Rafter thrilled everybody with his gutsy performance. "It was only afterwards that he asked me what attrition was," Newcombe said.

More recently, after securing victory against the Czech Republic in two days, the Aussies indulged in a little celebrating on the Saturday night. Next day, Rafter lost a dead rubber in the reverse singles and publicly admitted that he had not sobered up until the third set.

"Tonight I'll have a drink of water and go to bed," he said with a smile on Sunday after becoming the first Australian to win the United States title since



Pat Rafter (right) is congratulated by Greg Rusedski after winning the US Open on Sunday night. Photograph: AP

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Newcombe in 1973, demonstrating that he has a lot in common with the great Aussie players on the court and off.

In spite of Pete Sampras's elimination in the fourth round, the tournament was a triumph for art of serve and volley,

which is believed to be a dying art. "Well," Rusedski commented, "I don't mind if it goes extinct and we and Pat do it. That would be fine."

"I think maybe younger kids growing up will be more aggressive. If you've got a good

serve and you can get to the net, you can get a lot of free points. You need in all-round game today. That's why Pat has taken such a jump."

A good deal of development is taking shape in the women's game, currently dominated by the brilliant 16-year-old Martina Hingis.

Few players have been blessed with the range of strokes, positional sense, poise and early maturity of Hingis's game, which was far too advanced for Venus Williams to prostrate with her raw attacking power in Sunday's final.

Williams, three months older than Hingis, has time to learn from the defeat in the final of her debut at the US Open, 6-0, 6-4.

If she does, there could be some exciting times ahead.

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# Coulthard answers all the doubts

## Motor racing

DERRICK ALLSOP

reports from Monza

David Coulthard and Ron Dennis were savoring the moment and it was not so much what was said as what wasn't that captured the mood and significance.

McLaren-Mercedes had a win in the Italian Grand Prix here on Sunday to answer any lingering questions about their continued partnership with their drivers and the team's unproductive talks with Damon Hill.

Dennis enthused: "We've had some great drivers in our cars, but the way David drives a race is impeccable. When you are out in front that's the place where you really feel the pressure. All the victories are nice but this was very sweet because it was all about strategy and complete teamwork."

Coulthard, too, had given his crew fulsome praise for the swift pit-stop which put him in front and exposed him to that pressure. The Scot handled it with a maturity befitting his 26 years and insisted it was the easier half of the race.

Dennis retained Coulthard and Mike Häkkinen after Hill rejected his offer, said to have been worth \$2m (£1.3m) plus \$1m a win. The two incumbents were commended for their commitment to the cause of winning.

And now Coulthard, having apparently vindicated Dennis's eventual decision, was stressing that ambition rather than money was his driving force.

He said: "I believe I can win races and can contemplate winning a championship. My primary goal is to have that rather than the money. I guess it just depends on where you are coming from."

"I probably could have earned more money up to this point of my career by being more aggressive in some ways, but you've got to be there and have a seat to do the job. Money is always an issue, but it depends on how big an issue you make it. I feel comfortable with what I'm being paid."

"I wouldn't want to get involved in saying whether Damon was right or wrong in not accepting the deal because I don't know exactly what he was offered. All I know is I am happy with how things are."

"At the moment there are a number of teams who can win races and McLaren is one of them. And at the moment Arrows isn't."

"Your primary objective is to get into a car that can win races, rather than the money issue. He didn't like the deal that was offered, but the question is, do you want to win? Is the motivation money or winning? I know he could have won in Hungary, but I'd rather be paid less and be in a winning car on a regular basis."

Hill, whose frustrations at Arrow-Yamaha this season have been eased only by that stirring performance in Budapest, patently left Dennis unimpressed with his attitude and perceived priority.

Coulthard observed: "In sport it's how much someone wants you. If someone really wants you, then you are in a position of strength. You get more for yourself. It's just trying to weigh up at any given time how important or irreplaceable you are."

"On paper our team should get even better next season. We have the resources to do the job. With the new regulations it is difficult to know what is going to happen, but even if we get it wrong first time, we will be able to react and do it again."

Hill's pursuit of a car that can instill him with confidence could hinge on the outcome of a High Court case on Wednesday, when Jordan and Benetton go into legal conflict over the services of Giancarlo Fisichella. The team who do not employ the Italian next season may invite Hill to fill the vacancy.

Another factor in the Benetton equation is the impending departure of the managing director, Flavio Briatore. Rocco Benetton, 27-year-old representative of the dynasty, is to be installed as commercial head while David Richards, head of the successful Prodrive rally team, is expected to be handed control of the racing operation. Hill's other options are Prost and Arrows.

As the reigning champion, 37 next week, awaits developments he must wonder whether he was a little hasty in walking away from McLaren. He pulled over here on Sunday with a blown engine at precisely the moment he was being lapped – by Coulthard.

Williams will use BMW engines when the German motor company returns to Formula One in the year 2000. Two years to the week since BMW left the sport, the team led by Frank Williams have decided to switch from their association with current engine manufacturers Renault.

# Packers make perfect mess of things

## American football

MARK BURTON

If the first weekend of NFL action was not enough of a warning to those who insist on bucking favourites, then the second round should certainly have persuaded such punters to take a closer look before picking candidates for the Super Bowl. Even on game-by-game basis, going for the short odds is not bringing a return.

There was talk of the Green

Bay Packers, who ran up a 13-3 record last year and swept to the Super Bowl, might produce perfection this season. Forget it. With 11 seconds left at Veterans' Stadium on Sunday, rookie Ryan Longwell missed a 24-yard field goal and the Packers lost 10-9 to the Eagles.

The Packers failed to score a touchdown for the first time since 18 October 1992, a run of 85 regular-season and playoff games. "This is an early wake-up call for us," Green Bay's coach, Mike Holmgren, said.

Trailing by two sets to Cedric Pioline, Rafter made a remarkable recovery and turned the tie

directed the offense to a franchise points record in his first start.

Matthews, picked up on waivers two weeks ago, was playing in place of Rob Johnson, who had started since Mark Brunell was injured in a pre-season contest against the Giants. He completed 15 of 22 passes for 252 yards and directed eight scoring drives. Natrone Means and James Stewart ran in two touchdowns each.

The New England Patriots are bucking the trend. They started with a 41-7 win over the

San Diego Chargers and followed up with another convincing performance, beating the Colts 31-6 in Indianapolis. Drew Bledsoe threw four touchdown passes to four different receivers for the second consecutive week, completing 15 of 25 passes for 267 yards. He threw a 34-yard scoring pass to Shawne Jefferson, a 21-yarder to Curtis Martin, a six-yarder to Vincent Brisby and a 21-yard TD pass to Troy Brown.

The Dolphins have also made a flying start. Olindo Mare's

third field goal of the game, a 29-yarder 2:15 into overtime, gave them a 16-13 victory over the Tennessee Oilers in Miami.

For the second straight week, the defense and special teams of the Dolphins bailed out the misfiring offense, which twice bogged down inside the Oilers 10 and has managed just two touchdowns in two games. Nevertheless, they have won them both, and on Sunday, Dan Marino completed 24 of 43 passes for 324 yards.

Results, Digest, page 25

# ECB officials propose alternative manifesto

## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

AXA Life League

MARK BURTON

A two-division County Championship was yesterday proposed by Lord's executives as the alternative to change in English cricket, which reaches a climax.

Tim Lamb, the England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive, also revealed that an enhanced all-play-all Championship, with a linked Super Cup for eight top teams, will also be considered when the 18 counties meet at Lord's next Monday to discuss MacLaurin's document.

There are now three options on the table, including the

conference idea to get a significant majority of votes on 15 September. Lamb's team was immediately set up to look into providing options. Yesterday the 18 counties were given two alternative proposals and have a week to decide how to vote.

A fourth alternative, of course, is to vote for no change at all, but retaining the status quo would at this stage make a nonsense of a process for change which was set in motion by the counties themselves.

It seems certain now that

the conference system, which would have produced a 14-match first-class season and included two play-offs for each county, will be rejected. The one-day proposals, namely a 25-match national league, also look doomed.

But whether counties will embrace a two-division Championship remains to be seen.

The second of yesterday's

proposals, for an enhanced 18-club Championship, looks like being a more attractive option for those unwilling to commit themselves to a two-division split. This new formula for revitalising the Championship, while keeping its present form, involves the top eight teams qualifying for a knock-out one-day Super Cup competition to be played in the first half of the following season. The plan is for this extra Cup to prove a lucrative affair, with accompanying TV coverage.

Improved prize money for the Championship, plus proposals for the honour four teams in the Championship to join minor county sides in round three of the NatWest Trophy,

are also outlined as ways of creating greater competitiveness.

If either of the two new proposals are voted in they would be adopted for the 1999 season.

The NatWest Trophy, although an improved form and open to more minor teams, will remain as a 16-0 competition but the final is planned to be brought forward to the last weekend in August. The draw for next year's first and second rounds, due to be made yesterday, has been delayed in view of all the uncertainty.

Montgomery's happy Monday

Richard Montgomerie's best ever Sunday League performance came on a Monday as Northamptonshire defeated Durham by five wickets with over to spare.

Montgomerie hit only four boundaries but assumed a general air of command for an unheated 86, batting throughout in an innings of 113 balls.

His match-winning unbroken stand of 68 with Tim Walton (41no) came in a 10 over spell which galvanised his side.

Northamptonshire's needed 49 from the final seven overs and that asking rate of seven and

over still applied with three remaining.

Balton had altered the shift of the match with successive fours in Alan Walker's sixth over and when he dispensed the same bowler through midwicket to the boundary in the 37th, and was then dropped by John Wood of Neil Killeen in the next, Durham knew their fate.

Durham's frustration at narrowly missing their first away win of any description since August 1995, which ironically came at Northampton, was huge.

And Walton's final act of

grieving comparisons were immense for much of this reached AXA Life contest.

Montgomery's happy Monday

# Bees given a scare

</

# Scotland poised to reap rewards

## Football

PHIL SHAW

Scottish football scarcely had time to savor the national side's 4-1 defeat of Belarus before news came of the proposed breakaway by Premier Division clubs. Come tomorrow night, however, the focus will switch from the future of the Motherwells and Montroses to events in a faraway former Soviet republic.

Belarus against Austria at the Dynamo Stadium in Minsk will be monitored as eagerly as it were taking place at Ibrox or Tannadice. Scotland need a substantial favour from the team they trounced at Aberdeen if they are to avoid the purgatory of play-offs for a place in the World Cup finals.

Austria's bruising victory over Sweden has made them favourites to win Group Four. Provided they beat Belarus home and away, Herbert Prohaska's team will qualify automatically for France.

Belarus' record is not calculated to encourage optimism among the Scots, whose more realistic target is either to advance as the runners-up with the best record or to win the two-leg play-off which is the very least that three points against Latvia in Edinburgh next month would guarantee.

## England turn to two Dyers and a Murphy

The Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy and the Ipswich wing-back Kieron Dyer have been awarded their first England Under-21 caps for tonight's European Under-21 Championship qualifier with Moldova at Wycombe.

Murphy is set to play behind the only orthodox striker in the side, Crystal Palace's Bruce Dyer. The 18-year-old Kieron Dyer will be expected to get forward down the right flank and supply the ammunition for his namesake, who was recalled to the squad because of injuries to two strikers, Jamie Scowcroft and Darren Eadie.

Aston Villa's Riccardo Simeone will captain the side for the second time in the absence of the injured Ben Thacker and will be part of a three-man defence also containing Chelsea's fit-again Michael Duberry and Coventry's Marcus Hall.

ENGLAND UNDER-21 (v Moldova, Wycombe, tonight): Wayne Barnes (keeper); Kieron Dyer (Ipswich), Jamie Scowcroft (Crystal Palace), Bruce Dyer (Ipswich), Kieron Dyer (Ipswich), Riccardo Simeone (Chelsea), Michael Duberry (Aston Villa), Marcus Hall (Coventry), Kieron Dyer (Ipswich) & Ben Thacker (Aston Villa).

## Reggae Boys given a boost by Burton

### World Cup round-up

RUPERT METCALF

in Kingston on Sunday, they will be well placed to qualify for the finals for the first time ahead of the more-fancied Costa Ricans, El Salvador and Canada.

A crowd of 35,000 packed Jamaica's National Arena for the match, with hundreds locked out. As well as Burton, the home side picked Wimbledon's Robbie Earle, and Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson of Portsmouth. Canada fielded West Bromwich Albion's Paul Peschisolido and Plymouth's Carlo Corazzini as well as Forrest.

The United States improved their chances of another appearance at the finals with a 1-0 win over Costa Rica in Portland, Oregon, Tab Ramos grabbing a 78th-minute winner which was set up by the former Everton midfielder, Fredrik Radostovjevic.

"We're well on our way [to France] now," said Steve Sampson, the American coach, who picked the Leicester goalkeeper Kasey Keller and Roy Wegerle, the former Queen's Park Rangers forward, as Jamaica's Park Rangers are known, can beat Costa Rica

as easily as they did the Reggae Boys.

Jamaica lie fourth, behind Costa Rica on goal difference, having played a game fewer. If the "Reggae Boys", as Jamaica are known, can beat Costa Rica

they are still top of Group Two in the European zone, but they are only one point ahead of England.

With England likely to get three points from Moldova tomorrow, a failure to win in Georgia would install Glenn Hoddle's men as the group leaders before the decider in Rome on 11 October.

Despite the need for goals, Italy's 65-year-old coach is unlikely to try anything rash on the tactical front. Maldini will almost certainly start with his tried and tested 4-4-2 line-up, coupling the creative skills of Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola with Lazio's powerful centre-forward, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Zola's team-mate Roberto Di Matteo and Parma's Dino Baggio are likely to harness the posts.

Italy won 7-0 in a practice game against an amateur side at the weekend, and Maldini said: "The game gave me a few indications, but nothing to make me change my mind completely." Roberto Baggio showed some nice touches, and Ciro Ferrara should return to central defence, with the captain Paolo Maldini on the left, Christian Panucci on the right and Angelo Peruzzi between the posts.

Italy must win against the skilful Georgians in Tbilisi tomorrow, or face the prospect of England, and not the 1994 World Cup finalists, qualifying automatically for France '98.

Cesar Maldini is even trying with the idea of a three-man attack, based on Roberto Baggio playing behind two strikers, in his quest to ensure a clear-cut victory in the Georgian capital.

Italy's need for goals is based on the arithmetic of their World Cup campaign, which has become complicated after a 0-0 draw in Poland.

England may be planning to annihilate them on the final straight, but first Italy have to find a way past Georgia on the last bend of their World Cup race.

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ENGLAND UNDER-21 (

**Survival instinct**  
Dave Hadfield on the changes  
needed in rugby league, page 22

# sport

**Hitting the heights**  
John Roberts on a fine fortnight for  
Greg Rusedski, page 24

## Old Firm lead top 10 breakaway

### Football

DAVID MCKINNEY

A new future for Scottish football will be unveiled today by the 10 clubs who make up the Premier Division. All 10, led by the "big two" north of the border – Celtic and Rangers – have tendered their resignation to the Scottish Football League with effect from the end of the season in the hope that an élite division similar to that in England can be established.

The breakaway by Celtic, Rangers, Hibernian, Dunfermline, Motherwell, Heart of Midlothian, St Johnstone,

Dundee United, Aberdeen and Kilmarnock will be discussed by the Scottish League management committee on 18 September, although there is little it can do to halt the change coming about. At best it can delay the inevitable by a season because any unauthorised departure would leave the players' registrations in the hands of the league.

The moves will be construed in some quarters as prising ajar the door which leads towards amalgamation of clubs in Scotland and England into a British league. That possibility was not discounted by Lex Gold, the Hibernian chairman, who is a spokesman for the Premier clubs.

"That has not been part of our deliberations because our focus has been on improving the game in Scotland," he said. "although as a flexible minded person I would suggest everything is possible. The move will be in the interests of the whole of Scottish football and not just the top clubs."

There was no comment from the Scottish League beyond confirmation from the secretary, Peter Donald, that he had received 10 letters of resignation. Jim Parry, the chief executive of the Scottish Football Association, said: "There has been no formal contact with the SFA about this matter by our clubs."

The proposed league will not be exclusive to the current 10 Premier clubs and promotion and relegation will continue.

Scotland's top clubs have been talking of breaking away from the league for at least five years. Back in 1992, the proposal looked like going through, only for Celtic to pull out at the 11th hour and tear the whole idea apart.

The debate came to the surface again in May of this year. That is when the 10 clubs headed by the Rangers chairman David Murray and the Celtic managing director Fergus McCann, said they wanted a Premiership style set-up which

would involve a new link with Sky TV. Accountants were asked to come up with a business plan for the £87.5m, five-year deal.

The Glasgow giants have over the years become increasingly frustrated at seeing their power eroded by smaller clubs and feel change was vital. But this season opened with the same system in place and the same frustrations.

However, all that looks about to change with Murray and McCann still at the forefront of the negotiations. Sky's TV deal, currently worth £10.4m runs out next May.

There is little doubt an au-

tonomous, élite league would derive financial benefits. While the English Premiership has dramatically increased the revenue from television, clubs in Scotland have received as little as £100,000 from TV shares while playing in the top division.

An important aspect to any change will be the ability of the bigger clubs to make use of huge screens in order to beam away matches into their home grounds. Rangers recently were blocked from such moves by the league who insisted on a £25,000 payout for every match shown on Ibox to be distributed to the other clubs.

However, a word of caution

was sounded by Rick Parry, who helped fashion the breakaway from the Football League by the then English First Division clubs in 1992.

"Simply forming a new league doesn't mean you get millions from TV or generate more sponsorship straight away," he said. "It depends on market forces and whether there is a demand for the product. A change like this doesn't automatically improve the basic quality of the product."

"You can't wave a magic wand and suddenly everything is put right. You don't get untold riches thrown at you because you have become different."

MARK BURTON

Iore Pedersen hopes that his £500,000 move to Blackpool, where he signed a three-year contract yesterday, will help him to earn a ticket to France for the World Cup finals.

In that respect the Norwegian central defender has an advantage over his team-mates at Ewood Park, because Norway are sure of their place in the finals. Pedersen's problem was that his previous side, St Pauli, were relegated from the top flight of the German Bundesliga, putting his international career at risk.

Pedersen, who has more than 40 caps, missed the 1994 finals with a cruciate ligament injury while on loan at Oldham. "They came here because of my World Cup place. I was happy at St Pauli but when they were relegated I wanted to leave. I need to play at the top level," he said.

Newcastle United have taken two foreign players on loan. The club's assistant manager, Terry McDermott, said they were looking at Bernard Allou, a French Under-21 midfielder, and a Spaniard, Alejandro Sierra Pumero.

Strindland are hoping to sign Mark Hughes from Chelsea and David Hirst from Sheffield Wednesday to compensate for the loss of Neil Quinn, their Republic of Ireland international striker. Quinn may need a third knee operation in 12 months. He missed most of last season's Premiership campaign after damaging crucial knee ligaments for the second time. He required further surgery at the end of the season, but the problem has flared up again.

Matthew Le Tissier is hoping to be over his broken arm in time to meet Liverpool on 20 September. He broke a bone at the tip of his elbow during a pre-season friendly in Germany and required an operation. He was initially ruled out for three months.

Robbie Fowler and Oyvind Leonhardsen, neither of whom have played so far this season, will play for Liverpool reserves this week, in the hope of being fit for next week's UEFA Cup match against Celtic.

Bolton have sent Mark Fish back to South Africa to train with his former club, Orlando Pirates. The £2m centre-half, signed from Roma, is still waiting on a work permit and has to leave the country until it arrives.

Tottenham's Neale Fenn has been promoted to the Republic of Ireland's World Cup squad for tomorrow's match against Lithuania, despite being sent off for the Under-21 side against Iceland four days ago.

More football, page 25

## Seaman 'suits the occasion'

GLENN MOORE

David Seaman has more Wembley memories than most: he conceded a 40-yard free-kick to Paul Gascoigne in the FA Cup semi-final; he won and lost Euro '96 penalty shoot-outs; he has even watched Rod Stewart play there in the pouring rain. Tomorrow, however, he will represent his country on a bittersweet night more laden with emotion than even the twin towers could recall.

Seaman was yesterday chosen by Glenn Hoddle to captain England in tomorrow's World Cup tie against Moldova. He has been granted the honour, despite Hoddle's admitted dislike of goalkeeping captains, because the England coach feels that he has the character to handle a singular occasion and the status to grace it.

"He suits the occasion," Hoddle said. "He has the respect of players and the public alike, as experienced as anyone in the squad and at the top of his game. He is a smashing lad, always looking on the positive but always in control of his emotions. No one knows what the evening will be like but I'm sure he will be able to deal with it."

Seaman received the MBE during the summer and Hoddle added: "That honour goes with the situation. There is a lot to be done. Many people will have gone back to work today, we have to do that on Wednesday." Seaman, who has previously

led Arsenal and Queen's Park Rangers, is Hoddle's fifth captain – Alan Shearer, Tony Adams and Stuart Pearce are injured and Paul Ince suspended. He said: "The worst time will be up to the kick-off. We will all be thinking of Diana but after the national anthem I think the players' mood will change because we have a job to do. We will show our respects before that."

Seaman feels a particular empathy with the tragedy, as his fiancée's mother died less than a month ago. "It has been a bad month and an emotional time," he admitted. He and his girlfriend laid flowers at Kensington Palace and signed the condolence book at Harrods on Friday evening.

"You could see what it meant to everybody," he said. "There was a load of nationalities there, not just English, all laying flowers. It was strange, a lot of people recognised me but no one bothered me for an autograph. Normally people do but they were there to pay their respects to Diana. I noticed it straight away."

The England squad are doing their match fees to the Memorial Fund. They, the FA and other authorities are still discussing whether, and when,



David Batty (left) trains under the watchful eye of the new England captain, David Seaman, at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

the FA's Director of Public Affairs.

There will be other gestures with the team likely to wear a black ribbon, as Greg Rusedski did in the US tennis Open, rather than an armband.

Les Ferdinand said most of the

team had watched the funeral at their homes. "No one could have played on Saturday but now we have to concentrate on the job in hand," he added.

"I think people are over it now and getting on with their lives, but it was very emotional watching

it. It's such a pity it took a tragedy like that to bring the nation together. I hope we can give everybody a lift."

England should manage that although, as Hoddle noted, an early goal would probably do a lot to lift the mood and ease the

tension on the night. Seaman is

likely to find himself a remote captain, with much of the play at the other end. This would not normally be ideal but Hoddle's choice is justified in the unique circumstances.

Gary Pallister, somewhat

ironically given his weekend interview, is doubtful after missing training yesterday with a stiff back. David Batty opted out of the squad match at the end of the session to nurse a foot injury which has been troubling him for a while.

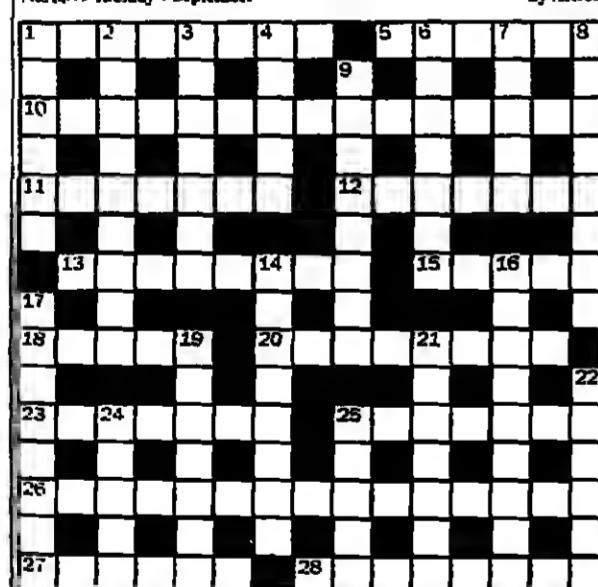
Tottenham's Neale Fenn has been promoted to the Republic of Ireland's World Cup squad for tomorrow's match against Lithuania, despite being sent off for the Under-21 side against Iceland four days ago.

More football, page 25

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3399 Tuesday 9 September

By Aledri



#### Munday's Solution

PIRENTION  
CANTHEWING LIVES  
NWC E I F A  
SUITED INSTANCE  
ILM E I V  
SILVER BEGROUD  
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ESCALOPE TINNO  
HESCALOPE TINNO  
TERRAPIN PELON  
N S G C H  
CLIMP NONPARADE  
S I A O V Y  
SHAGKILEYON

#### GUY HODGSON

The Football Association, fearful of an English Premiership wholly dominated by foreign coaches and players, has taken steps to encourage domestic players to become coaches.

Jimmy Armfield, the FA's technical consultant, is to work with the Professional Footballers' Association to ensure that high-profile players will be offered the likes of Glenn Hoddle, Kenny Dalglish and Bryan Robson by staying in the game after they retire from the field.

"This is not an anti-foreigner thing," Armfield, who will be in charge of the PFA's six regional coaches, said yesterday. "To say there should be no foreigners here would be nonsense and if young goalkeepers watch Peter Schmeichel or forward leaders like Gianfranco Zola does I'd be more than happy."

"But we need to ensure that the expertise of players like Dalglish and Robson are not

lost when they stop playing. The PFA coaches and myself will be going to clubs and talking to players. Today's professionals are where the coaches of the future will be."

Armfield, who played for England 43 times in the 1950s and 60s and who managed Leeds United to the European Cup final in 1973, said that clubs were looking to short-term solutions of signing foreign players, rather than spending money developing their own players.

Better coaching, he believes, will bring better players and reduce the need for imports.

Currently, there are more than 130 foreign players employed in the Premiership while two clubs, Arsenal and Chelsea, are managed by non-British coaches. Those figures do not take into account the large number of Scottish, Welsh and Irish footballers who are also ineligible for selection by England.

At Chelsea, for example, a team made up entirely of foreigners is feasible, yet the move

ment in the opposite direction is negligible. Daniele Dichio, who moved from Queen's Park Rangers to Sampdoria in the summer, is the only English player in Italy's Serie A, while there are none in the top divisions in Spain and Germany.

"I went to a Premiership match last season where there were only seven players eligible to play for England," Armfield said. "That cannot be good for the domestic game."

Arsenal looked abroad for a coach, as did Celtic, and Blackburn also went to Italy, even if Roy Hodgson is English. There is going to be more of that in the future and we have to be ready to meet that challenge. If it was any other business they would already have done it.

"I feel very strongly that the development of our young players should be a priority for the Government and the Football Association. In the past I've felt this has been left to somebody else, as if it takes care of itself, but it doesn't."

## Rider sacked after drug test

### Motorcycling

CATHERINE RILEY

The Australian 500cc rider Anthony Gobert has been dismissed from his Suzuki team for failing a drug test at last month's British Grand Prix.

The test was carried out on behalf of Team Lucky Strike Suzuki at Donington Park on 17 August and is believed to be the first positive doping case in the 500cc world championship.

Suzuki tested positive for and a spokeswoman declined to name the substance. She would not say whether it was a recreational or performance-enhancing drug.

"Team Lucky Strike Suzuki terminated its contract with Anthony Gobert following a positive drug test," said a Suzuki statement issued from Japan.

"Results made available to the team last week showed a positive reading for a prohibited substance. As a result, in the best interests of the team, the sport and fellow competitors, his contract was terminated with immediate effect."

There was no word on any replacement for Gobert in the three remaining races of the season and Suzuki are also expected to lose his team-mate, Barry Beattie, next season when he returns to superbike racing.

Gobert, 22, was in his world championship debut season in the 500cc category, yet he thrived in controversy, clashing with the four-times world champion Michael Doohan before the season started, when he reportedly branded his competitor a loser.

His best result of the season was seventh place in Austria, but he had scored points consistently and was 13th overall in the standings.

Gobert did not finish the British Grand Prix, retiring after just five laps and complaining of cramp in a hand. He had arrived at Donington late and lacking sleep, having missed his plane from Australia.

**Maurice Lacroix**  
Switzerland



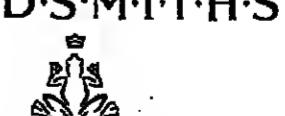
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Third  
driver  
John Lichfield  
Pax  
Hein Paul, who died in Black Diana, Pines, was buried in a family plot in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist, Wimborne, Dorset. His wife, Valerie, died in 1995.

A source close to the family said that the couple had been married for 50 years. They had three children: Paul, 25, and his wife, Valerie, 23, and their son, John, 18, who is currently studying for an apprenticeship in the building industry.

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